Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-90-104
Wednesday
30 May 1990

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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Further Reportage on Arab Summit in Baghdad 1
Al-Asad's Absence Explained *[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 29 May]* 1
Ministers Discuss Drafts *[INA]* 1
'Second Closed Session' *[INA]* 1
Leaders Conclude Session *[INA]* 1
Session's Topics Disclosed *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 1
To Issue 'Baghdad Declaration' *[MENA]* 2
No Response to U.S. Message *[MENA]* 2
U.S., USSR Memo Abandoned *[JORDAN TIMES 30 May]* 2
'Aziz on Memo Decision *[INA]* 4
Final Resolutions Condemn U.S. *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 4
'Aziz: All Resolutions Approved *[Voice of the Masses]* 4
Leaders To Meet Before Session *[INA]* 5
Begin 'Last Closed Session' *[INA]* 5
Algeria's Ghazali Comments *[APS]* 5
King Husayn's Address *[Baghdad Radio]* 5
'Arafat, PLO Working To End Iraq-Iran Dispute *[MENA]* 9
IJLP Official on Escalating Jihad Operations *[Tehran International]* 9
Al-Qadhdhafi Meets Arab Leaders in Baghdad *[Tripoli TV]* 10

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat: Oil Exports 'Instruments of Pressure' *[AFP]* 10
'Arafat To Visit Tehran To Set Up Peace Talks *[Amman Radio]* 10
To Leave 'Soon' *[KUNA]* 10
Invited To Visit Moscow *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 29 May]* 11
PFLP Group Clashes With 'Enemy Patrols' *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 11
Al-'Asifah Claims Explosion At Jerusalem Market *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 11
Fatah's Salah Khalaf Comments on Arab Issues 11
Urges 'Firm Decisions' at Summit *[KUNA]* 11
Discusses Intifadah, U.S. Stand *[Kuwait AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI 19 May]* 12
Calls for 'Arab Lobby' in U.S. *[Kuwait AL-ANBA' 27 May]* 14
'Arafat on Possible Fact-Finding Mission Talks *[Algiers VOP]* 15
PLO Official on U.S. Memo, Summit, Issues *[Kuwait AL-ANBA' 25 May]* 16

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Ben Bella Says Country Verging on 'Upheaval' *[AFP]* 17
APS Comments on Necessary Election Conduct 17
Reportage on Visit by Vietnam's Vo Chi Cong 17
Arrives in Algiers 26 May *[Algiers Radio]* 17
Discusses Ties With Bendjedid *[Algiers TV]* 18
Further on Activities *[VNA]* 18

Egypt

Arab Summit Said to Convene in Cairo in Nov *[MENA]* 18
Two 'Extremists' Arrested for Attack on Police *[MENA]* 18

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Weekly Blames Gorbachev for Emigration Rise *[KUNA]* 19

PDRY

Further on Actions Following Unity Declaration 19
Sanaa Security Forces in Aden *[Aden Radio]* 19
Council of Ministers Meets *[Aden Radio]* 19
Representatives Hold 1st Session *[Aden Radio]* 20
Representatives Hold 2d Session *[Aden Radio]* 20

IRAQ

Saddam Receives Libya's Al-Talhi, Message *[Baghdad Radio]* 21
Summit Shows Arabs 'Facing Critical Dangers' *[INA]* 21
Arabs Urged 'To Re-draft' Relations With U.S. *[INA]* 21

ISRAEL

'Terrorists' Attempt To Infiltrate Nizzanim Coast 22
IDF Spokesman's Statement *[Jerusalem Radio]* 22
Police Chief Comments *[Jerusalem Radio]* 22
Shamir Preparing To Submit 'Minority Government' *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 22
U.S. 'Connivance' With Israel on Baker Plan *[Damascus Radio]* 22
Vanunu Appeal in Treason, Espionage Case Rejected *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 23

JORDAN

Unity With Saudi Arabia Reportedly Proposed *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 24
ACC Official Denies Report *[AL-DUSTUR 30 May]* 24
Crown Prince Receives Soviet Military Official *[Amman TV]* 24
Hasan Receives U.S. Group, Urges Just Peace *[Amman TV]* 24
Ministry Introduces Water Distribution Program *[JORDAN TIMES 28 May]* 24

LEBANON

Al-Hirawi Responds to Message From King Fahd *[Voice of National Resistance]* 26
Ja'ja' on Support for Papal Nuncio's Peace Plan *[RFL]* 26
Government To Buy Weapons From East Europe *[Beirut Radio]* 26
Birri on Government, Situation in East Beirut *[Voice of National Resistance]* 26
Amal, Hizballah Clash in West Beirut *[RFL]* 26
Blast in West Beirut Causes Material Damage *[VOL]* 26

SYRIA

'Improvisation' Seen in Arab Summit Preparations *[Damascus Radio]* 27
Damascus Reports Al-Qadhdhafi Arrival, Talks *[Damascus Radio]* 27
AL-THAWRAH on Al-Asad-Al-Qadhdhafi Talks *[Damascus Radio]* 27
Al-Shar' Delivers 'Political Briefing' to Cabinet *[SANA]* 28
Some Polling Stations To Hold Elections Again *[Damascus TV]* 28
Final Results of Assembly Elections Due Sunday *[Damascus Radio]* 28

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Najibullah Addresses Grand National Assembly *[Kabul Radio]* 29
Addresses National Assembly *[Kabul Radio]* 34
Closes Grand National Assembly *[Kabul Radio]* 35
BAKHTAR Reports Grand Assembly Session 36
Reports Conclusion of Assembly 36
Paper Reports Foiled 'Coup Attempt' in Kabul *[Lahore THE NATION 29 May]* 37
Mujahidin Group Names U.S. in Assassination Plan *[AFP]* 37
Najibullah Sends Message on Teachers' Day *[BAKHTAR]* 38
Meets 'Vanguard' Teachers *[BAKHTAR]* 38
Regime Forces Repel Offensive in Khowst District *[Kabul Radio]* 38
Intense Fighting on Kabul-Jalalabad Highway *[Islamabad Radio]* 38

India

Gujral Speaks of International Support on Kashmir *[Delhi Radio]* 39
Singh Briefs Brandt on Pakistani Military Moves *[Delhi Radio]* 39
Bhutto's Visit to Muslim Countries Criticized *[Delhi International]* 39
New Kashmir Governor on Restoring 'Normalcy' *[AFP]* 40
Appeals to Youths for Peace *[Delhi Radio]* 40
Former Kashmir Governor Nominated to Rajya Sabha *[Delhi Radio]* 40

Iran

Majles Speaker Karrubi Gives News Conference *[Tehran Radio]* 40
AFP Notes Karrubi Comments on Hostages 41
U.S. Non-Reply on Hostage Issue Causes 'Dismay' *[Radio of the Iranian Toilers]* 42
Iran, UK Increase Efforts To Solve Differences *[Radio of the Iranian Toilers]* 42
Report on 6 May Majles Session Addresses *[RESALAT 7 May]* 42
Nationwide Conference of Friday Imams Continues 46
President Addresses Gathering *[Tehran Radio]* 46
Yazdi Addresses Group *[Tehran Radio]* 47
Velayati on Iraq, Kuwait *[IRNA]* 47
Karrubi Speaks; Motion Issued *[IRNA]* 47
International Ahl-e Beyt Conference Ends 24 May *[IRNA]* 48
KEYHAN HAVAI Comments on Saddam Letter *[16 May]* 49
Raja'i-Khorasani on Saddam Letter to President *[Tehran Radio]* 50
Anniversary of Khomeyni's Death To Be Marked 51
Ceremonies Scheduled *[IRNA]* 51
President Lauds Preparations *[Tehran Radio]* 51
Week of Mourning Declared *[IRNA]* 52
Malaysian Foreign Minister Departs Tehran *[IRNA]* 52

Maldives

Minister Reportedly Flees Amid Coup Rumors *[AFP]* 52

Nepal & Bhutan

Finance Ministry: Nation on Brink of Bankruptcy *[AFP]* 53
Nepal Halts Last Delivery of Chinese Arms *[AFP]* 53

Pakistan

Bhutto's Kashmir 'Diplomatic Offensive' Commended *[THE NATION 25 May]* 54
Paper Asks Bhutto To Answer Corruption Charges *[THE NATION 26 May]* 54
Paper Urges Reconsideration of Strategy in Sindh *[THE PAKISTAN TIMES 28 May]* 55
Nusrat Bhutto Alleges Indian Involvement in Sindh *[Islamabad Radio]* 55

Sri Lanka

Opposition Paper: Government-Rebel Talks Collapse *[AFP]* 55
Editorial Urges Solution of Northeast Problem *[SUN 15 May]* 56

Inter-Arab Affairs

Further Reportage on Arab Summit in Baghdad

Al-Asad's Absence Explained

PM2905153990 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 May 90 pp 1, 2

[Ghassan Shirbil and Zaki Shihab report: "Al-Asad Makes Attendance Conditional on Declaration Of Unity With Iraq"]

[Excerpts] Baghdad—The extraordinary Arab summit conference began its meetings in Baghdad yesterday in the presence of 19 Arab states with Syria and Lebanon absent. [passage omitted]

Informed Arab diplomatic sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Colonel al-Qadhdhafi made strenuous efforts to persuade Syria to participate, but Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad made attendance conditional on a declaration of Iraqi-Syrian unity during or at the conclusion of the conference.

The sources added that, on the basis of that proposal, al-Qadhdhafi sent Libyan Secretary of the People's Bureau for External Liaison Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Ta'hi to Baghdad with a message for Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

The Iraqi president, the sources said, explained to the Libyan envoy his country's position that outstanding bilateral issues could be discussed within a bilateral framework and that the purpose of the Arab summit is to discuss matters of Arab security.

The sources added that, when informed of the Iraqi reply, Syria decided not to attend the summit and Lebanon did the same.

The sources quoted the Syrian president as saying that Baghdad and Damascus should either be in full agreement or in full disagreement.

The Libyan leader's talks in Damascus had started a wave of speculation on the eve of the summit. [passage omitted]

Ministers Discuss Drafts

JN2905183090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1628 GMT 29 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, 29 May (INA)—The Arab foreign ministers held a meeting here this evening to discuss the draft of the extraordinary Arab summit's final statement and a number of other draft laws.

The Arab foreign ministers will submit these drafts to the Arab leaders at their extraordinary summit to make the appropriate decisions and recommendations.

The Arab foreign ministers concluded their closed meeting at 2045 today.

THE IRAQI NEWS AGENCY has learned that the Arab foreign ministers will hold a second session at 0830 tomorrow to finalize discussion of the final draft for the summit's final statement. The Arab foreign ministers will then pass their recommendations to the Arab leaders for review.

'Second Closed Session'

JN2905190290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 29 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, 29 May (INA)—The extraordinary Arab summit resumed its meetings by holding a second closed session at 2200 [1800 GMT] today.

INA has learned that, in addition to the Arab heads of state, the session was attended by members of the official delegations accompanying their majesties, excellencies, and highnesses the kings, presidents, and princes of the Arab countries.

Leaders Conclude Session

JN3005074790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2130 GMT 29 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, 29 May (INA)—The extraordinary Arab summit concluded its second closed working session at 0025 today. The summit is scheduled to resume its work today, Wednesday, to complete and approve recommendations submitted by the Arab foreign ministers.

Session's Topics Disclosed

JN2905193090 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 May 90

[Antoine Abu-Samrah dispatch from Baghdad]

[Text] The extraordinary Arab summit in Baghdad will resume its meetings tonight by holding a closed plenary session. Despite the secrecy shrouding the morning session, which was confined to the heads of delegations, some information has been leaked. The Arab leaders agreed to hold an ordinary Arab summit in Cairo, the new headquarters of the Arab League, once a year in the fall. This does not, of course, cancel extraordinary or emergency summits that might be dictated by events.

Regarding the emigration of Soviet Jews, no agreement was reached at today's session regarding the use of sanctions against the companies, institutions, and others who are facilitating this emigration. It seems that using the weapon of sanctions and also the weapon of oil—as some urged—was opposed by more than one party for fear that the negative repercussions on the Arab world might override the positive ones.

The subject of helping and supporting the inhabitants of the occupied territory and Jordan was not resolved in the morning session. It may be resolved in the evening session, when the competent ministers join the Arab leaders. It was reported that aid to Jordan will be about

$600 million so this country can meet some of its urgent payments and hold out in the face of events.

Supporting the intifadah and the inhabitants of the occupied territory is a given, but what remains is for the countries to take practical steps and accurately set the sums of money and the forms of payment, especially since it so happens that only one Arab country has honored its commitments in this area. When Yasir 'Arafat yesterday frankly presented the bill of the financial and human losses, President Saddam Husayn told him: The Arab nation is behind you, Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat].

Among the topics discussed in the morning session was the subject of Arab unity. As expected, the one who presented it was Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The subject of Syria's absence was not at all discussed in the morning, although the topic was up for discussion in all deliberations. The Lebanese file, which was expected to be discussed in the morning session, was postponed until the evening session. King Fahd is expected to present it within the framework of the results and decisions reached by the tripartite committee.

The subject of the Arab stance toward America will hinge upon the tone of the summit's response to the U.S. President, which will range between moderation and the firmness that President Saddam Husayn immediately declared. The subject has not yet been resolved. It might be resolved tonight.

To Issue 'Baghdad Declaration'

NC2905210190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2018 GMT 29 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, 29 May (MENA)—MENA has learned that the Arab summit participants will issue a final statement called the "Baghdad Declaration" during its final session on the morning of 30 May. The statement will be a combination of the ideas contained in the speeches of Presidents Mubarak and Saddam Husayn.

MENA also learned that the final statement will underscore support for the PLO's steps to achieve a just and lasting peace in the Middle East based on the Casablanca summit resolutions, which are based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. The statement will stress the need to convene an international conference for peace in the region attended by the Security Council permanent member-states and the parties concerned, including the PLO.

The statement criticizes the United States' stand and the U.S congressional resolutions that name Jerusalem the unified capital of Israel, the U.S. position regarding the current stagnation in the peace process despite the PLO's endeavors to resolve the Palestinian issue, and the U.S. stand on settling Soviet Jews in the occupied Arab territories as such a settlement will upset the balance there.

The statement calls for taking the necessary measures against all the states, companies, and institutions contributing to the settlement process in the occupied territories. It demands that all states suspend the material aid they provide to Israel because it is being used to settle Soviet Jews in the occupied territories. The summit statement also criticizes the United States for the attack its planes launched against Libya on 15 April 1986. It denounces Israeli and foreign threats against Iraq and the Arab states. The statement notes that the Arab leaders have decided to offer financial aid to Jordan. It supports the efforts of the tripartite Arab committee on Lebanon and reiterates support for the legitimacy in Lebanon as represented by the government of Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi.

MENA has learned that the summit will only announce its final statement. The resolutions adopted by the Arab leaders will not be announced.

No Response to U.S. Message

NC3005055590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2125 GMT 29 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, 29 May (MENA)—MENA has learned that the Arab leaders have decided not to respond to the U.S. ideas that the Arab Leage secretary general received in an oral message. MENA also learned that Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Morocco have expressed the belief that the U.S. message is not addressed to the Arab summit and therefore it is not the summit's concern to answer it. They noted that the Arab League secretary general, who received the message, could either respond to the ideas mentioned in the message or not respond to the message. Algeria backed the four states in their position.

It is worth noting that the U.S. message contained a number of ideas regarding the U.S. position on the Middle East peace process, the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, the settlements in the occupied territories, the situation in Lebanon, the Iraqi statements concerning theh use of missiles and chemical weapons, and U.S.-Iraqi relations. The text of the message was published in the Iraqi press.

U.S., USSR Memo Abandoned

JN3005055290 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 30 May 90 pp 1,5

[From Lamis Andoni in Baghdad]

[Text] Arab leaders gathered here for an emergency summit Tuesday endorsed most of the draft resolutions but differences persisted on the nature and wording of a proposed reply to an American memorandum to the Arab League and resolutions referrring to the U.S., summit sources said.

Officials said that the summit, which was extended until Wednesday to conclude all its deliberations, had abandoned the idea of sending a memorandum to U.S.

President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev who are scheduled to meet in Washington Thursday.

According to summit sources, it appeared almost certain that an Egyptian proposal to rid the Middle East of nuclear and chemical weapons would be dropped after opposition from Iraq and its supporters at the conference of the 21 members of the Arab League who are meeting here to discuss the threats inherent in Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel and the Iraqi-Israeli nuclear/ chemical stand-off.

The sources told the Jordan Times that in a closed session Tuesday, the Arab leaders endorsed draft resolution calling for increased support for the intifada, rejecting Israeli claims that "united Jerusalem" is its "eternal, indivisible capital, denouncing Israel's policy of settling immigrants in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, and urging the deployment of international forces to protect the Palestinians living in the occupied territories.

According to the sources, the Arab leaders remained divided over whether the summit should clearly endorse a decision to pressure the United States to change its position on the Palestinian problem and other Arab causes, or to keep the door open for "further efforts for mutual understanding."

In his keynote address to the summit, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn clearly called on the Arab leaders to adopt a tough position towards Washington "if it did not prove its friendship with the Arab World." But, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak mounted a campaign in the opposite direction urging the Arab leaders "not to allow the issue of Soviet Jewish immigration to be a source of conflict with one or more country."

During Tuesday's closed session, the sources said, King Fahd of Saudi Arabia strongly supported the Egyptian push. "The Saudis were even more pressing in their reservations over any move to mount Arab pressure on the U.S. or any other country," said a source. "They argued that such pressures might backfire," according to the source.

However, Mubarak intervened to support the argument that "some form of pressure be applied provided that such pressure does not antagonise the U.S. or any other country," said the source.

Iraq and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), meanwhile, pursued their drive for a tougher position towards the U.S. "if Washington continued its support for Israel and persisted in its disregard for Palestinian and Arab rights," officials said.

While Egypt and Saudi Arabia sought to avoid any explicit negative reference to the United States in the final communique of the summit, Iraq and the PLO were aiming at such an objective and the endorsement of a resolution which "upholds the military option" to resolve the Middle East conflict, said an official, who asked that he not be identified.

These differences were seen as the main reason behind the decision not to send written memoranda to Bush and Gorbachev. The summit would confine itself to resolutions instead of sending such memos, the official said.

The wrangle over the Arab approach to the United States was sparked by a 16-page memo that the administration sent to the Arab League prior to the convening of the summit. The memo criticised what the U.S. sees as a threatening military build-up but considered by the Arabs as Iraq's legitimate right to develop its military technology and urged that anti-American rhetoric be excluded from any of the summit resolutions or the final communique.

This appeared to have infuriated President Saddam Husayn, who departed from a prepared text to repeatedly denounce American "imperialism" in an open expression of scorn at the American memo.

However, the Iraqi leader was seen to have projected a "well-balanced argument" that the possession and developments of weapons in the Arab World is not necessarily for aggressive purpose, but for self-defence.

President Husayn said Monday that he would use weapons of mass destruction against Israel if it deployed its nuclear arsenals against any Arab state.

PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat told the conference Monday that Israel has 200 nuclear bombs.

At the closed-door session Tuesday, the PLO leader said Israel was conducting military exercises in the Negev desert in preparation for an assault on Iraq's military installations.

In his speech Monday, 'Arafat urged Arab leaders to mobilise their oil wealth in support of the Palestinian uprising.

"We are duty bound to use all weapons, including sanctions—economic boycotts and political and psychological pressures—against states, establishment and companies that participate in aggression against Arab territory," 'Arafat said.

He denounced the U.S. Congress for describing Jerusalem as Israel's capital in recent non-binding resolutions.

"The illegitimate declaration amounts to aggression on Arab dignity," 'Arafat said.

He said Arab Jerusalem "is part of the Palestinian territory under Israeli occupation. It is the capital of the State of Palestine."

'Arafat also accused the United States of supporting Israel's settlement of Jews in occupied Syrian and Lebanese territory, as well as in the West Bank.

The PLO wants the summit, boycotted by Syria and Lebanon, to back the idea of sending U.N. observers or peacekeepers to the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The United States said Tuesday it hopes any joint statement emerging from meetings of the Arab League would contribute to peace in the Middle East, and it called statements by President Husayn "outrageous," the AP reported.

"Our view of these statements remains as it was several weeks ago. They're irresponsible; they're inflammatory; they're outrageous," said State Department spokesman Margaret Tutwiler.

'Aziz on Memo Decision

JN3005083590 Baghdad INA in English 0900 GMT 30 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, May 30, INA—AL-QADISIYAH daily of Baghdad today quoted Iraqi Foreign Minister Mr. Tariq 'Aziz as stressing that the Arab delegations after lengthy deliberations overlooked addressing a message to the Gorbachev-Bush summit in Washington as it was expected.

The Iraqi daily added that the message was originally due to be focussed on attracting attention to the dangers of the Jewish emigration to Palestine and colonising in the occupied Arab territories and the impact on Arab security and also the impact on international detente on the question of peace in the Middle East.

Informed sources told AL-QADISIYAH that discussions of Arab leaders were permeated with clarity and frankness and their views were identical on boosting pan-Arab security and Arab capability.

The daily said that the sources information confirmed the fact of the success of the Baghdad summit in its objectives and resolutions to be adopted and that this summit achieved the goal of unifying efforts and confronting challenges collectively and in creating a new state of balance in the Arab-Zionist conflict for the interest of the Palestine issue.

AL-QADISIYAH daily also learnt that Saudi Arabia submitted a working paper to the Arab summit concerning the Lebanese issue containing the spirit of al-Ta'if resolutions.

In a statement to AL-QADISIYAH Saudi Foreign Minister, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said that there are important resolutions to be adopted as concerning the Saudi paper in a way that would boost unity of Lebanon and end fighting there among warring parties and consequently achieving peace in Lebanon.

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) yesterday held a meeting at the residence of the Saudi monarch to coordinate their stances.

Final Resolutions Condemn U.S.

JN3005062190 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0515 GMT 30 May 90

[Hasan al-Kashif dispatch from Baghdad]

[Text] The evening working session [of the Arab summit] ended at 0100 today. The Arab leaders have agreed on the draft resolutions that were referred to them by the foreign ministers. The resolutions deal with supporting Iraq, Jordan, and Libya against the Israeli and U.S. threats. The resolutions also specify the Arabs' right to possess technology, to proclaim Arab support for Iraq's peaceful initiatives, for the intifadah, and for the Arabs' stand in confrontation of Jewish emigration.

The Arab foreign ministers will meet at 0830 [0430 GMT] today to put the final touches to the final communique before submitting it to the summit. Many intensive consultations and contacts were held among the Arab leaders, enabling them to reach agreement on points of difference. The Arab summit resolutions, to be announced at noon today, condemn the United States by name because it supports and assists Israel. The Arab summit resolutions also attack the U.S. Congress' decision on Jerusalem. The summit will not send a letter to the U.S. and USSR presidents. Iraq will summon foreign ambassadors and hand them a copy of the resolutions. The Arab League secretary general will summon the U.S. ambassador and will admonish him on the contents of the U.S. letter that was addressed to the Arab summit.

'Aziz: All Resolutions Approved

JN3005065490 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0400 GMT 30 May 90

[Text] Baghdad—Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz has said that the Arab leaders approved holding the next summit in November, and that, henceforth, summit meetings will be organized on a yearly basis.

In a statement to a television and radio correspondent, 'Aziz said that the Arab foreign ministers have completed the major part of the summit's work and that the Arab leaders have approved all the recommendations put forth by the ministerial meetings. He said that the Arab leaders discussed and approved yesterday all the draft resolutions submitted by the Arab foreign ministers. He added that all the resolutions were unanimously approved last night in an atmosphere of great fraternal understanding and with agreement to effectively pursue joint Arab action.

Tariq 'Aziz added that the Arab foreign ministers will meet today, Wednesday, in what is expected to be a short meeting, to read the final communique of the extraordinary Arab summit.

Leaders To Meet Before Session

JN3005075290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0732 GMT 30 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, 30 May (INA)—The Arab foreign ministers concluded their last closed working session here a short while ago after they completed discussion of and approved the final communique and draft resolutions of the extraordinary Arab summit.

INA has learned that the Arab leaders will hold a closed session this morning prior to the summit's final open session, during which the final communique will announce the resolutions reached by the Arab leaders.

Begin 'Last Closed Session'

JN3005094590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0927 GMT 30 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, 30 May (INA)—The extraordinary Arab summit resumed its work with the last closed session at 1305 today. Their majesties, excellencies, and highnesses the kings, presidents, and amirs of the Arab states, and members of the official delegations accompanying them, attended the closed session.

INA has learned that following the conclusion of their closed session, the Arab leaders will directly hold an open session to read the final communique of the extraordinary Arab summit.

Algeria's Ghazali Comments

LD3005121890 Algiers APS in English 1112 GMT 30 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, 30/5/90 (APS)—Algerian Foreign Minister, said the Arab tripartite committee on Lebanon had elaborated a report which was submitted to Arab leaders who held in camera meeting to examine it before adopting it at the end of the works of the Arab extraordinary summit.

In a statement to APS, Ghazali said the report centered on the firm support to the Lebanese power at the political, finan :al and military levels.

The head of the Algerian diplomacy noted in this context that it is difficult to tackle the question of Lebanon in the absence of the legitimate Lebanese power and Syria, however, the conference managed to reach a compromise, namely to transmit a detailed report on the question of Lebanon to Arab kings and heads of state taking part in the Baghdad summit.

To a question on the repercussions of the mutations that took place in Eastern Europe on the Arab world, Ghazali said the Arab extraordinary summit has included in its agenda the assessment of the international situation in light of the deep and radical changes which the socialist block has witnessed and it is witnessing and the impact of these changes on the Arab world.

The Algerian foreign minister further noted that the Arab leaders examined during their camera meeting held on Tuesday this question whose challenges started to appear daily through the Jewish immigration to occupied Palestine and threats some Arab countries are facing.

King Husayn's Address

JN2805170090 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1145 GMT 28 May 90

[Speech by King Husayn Ibn-Talal of Jordan at the opening session of the extraordinary Arab summit in Baghdad on 28 May—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Your Excellency brother President Saddam Husayn; Your Majesties, Excellencies, and Highnesses; dear brothers: Praise be to God, and may God's prayers and peace be upon the most honorable creature, our Lord Muhammad, the honest Arab prophet and God's messenger to the world. Praise be to God who has united us as we seek to please him, and who allowed us to meet in the Baghdad of Arabism and Islam, the Baghdad of might, hope, and peace. The Iraqi brothers are enfolding us with their sincere love and warm care. By their good deeds and sacrifices, the Iraqis have proved that our nation is still alive and that it will continue to be impossible to dominate or humiliate our homeland.

Through the Arab prophet and the Arab Koran, no nation has been honored by God as this glorious Arab nation has. And this great Arab homeland has given humanity something to be proud of. Our nation and homeland are yearning and looking forward to our meeting in Baghdad. Their future will be determined by our awareness of what is going on around us and by our ability to build ourselves to confront the challenges and defend our present and future.

I come to you from Amman carrying the greetings of your Arab people in Jordan and conveying to you their dear hopes and wishes that this, our summit, will rise to the challenges facing our homeland and nation. They hope that the summit will produce resolutions and results that measure up to the capabilities and spirit of the millions of Arabs, and to their vitality and constant readiness to continue building their secure homeland—a homeland secure from threats of others and from their attempts to impair its unity and progress and to halt its humanitarian role of safeguarding rights, entrenching peace and security, and securing full justice for all countries and nations.

Before anything else, I must greet, in my name and on behalf of my family and people, the establishment of the Republic of Yemen, and express deep joy at this major development and great achievement in a true Arab land. This unity is a beginning of virtue, blessing, welfare, might, glory, and strength for all Yemenis and all Arabs toward the most cherished, inherited Arab goal of integration and unity. We congratulate those who have

turned the dream to reality, and we pray to God the almighty to protect Yemen and grant its leaders every success for their service to us and future Arab generations.

Brother Chairman, dear brothers: The institution of the Arab summit was established more than a quarter of a century ago. I am confident that you share my belief that the summit we are holding now is the most serious and important Arab summit. The discussions we hold during this summit and its results will not only determine the fate of this institution, but, they will also determine the future course of the homeland and nation. If previous summit conferences were necessitated by possible threats, we in this summit face existing or imminent threats, and our entire pan-Arab destiny hinges on how we confront these threats.

Therefore, we have agreed that this summit is the summit of the Arab order and Arab security. When we face the threats resulting from Jewish immigration, the unjust campaign against fraternal Iraq, and the concealed designs against Jordan, we face connected links in the same chain and an evil conspiracy against the homeland and the nation. We also face a war on more than one front, waged in more than one way, but in one direction and for one specific objective—to strike against our pan-Arab security and destroy our Arab order.

Brothers, the talk about Jewish immigration calls for facing the international developments that have made it possible. Unless we understand these reasons and learn how to study and deal with them, grave and destructive results—and the Jewish immigration is only one of them—will threaten and harm our homeland and nation.

International developments continue to create new facts, which have resulted in new relationships. The end of the cold war between East and West and other major changes, which began in the Soviet Union and then moved to the whole of East Europe, are gradually leading to what looks like a unity between Eastern and Western Europe. This would mean a complete change in foreign policies. It would also mean the end of competition based on military strength between two major blocs, which will be replaced by economic and technological competition among regional economic groups.

We have declared, and still declare, that we welcome the developments that brought about the end of the cold war and replaced the arms race and the ever-explosive conflict with the trend of peaceful cooperation and competition, and which showed concern for conserving the environmental system of our planet Earth.

Still, our responsibilities must now make us pay greater attention to ourselves and protecting our interests. If our nation has managed in the past to reach accommodation with the conflict that existed between the East and West—during which the imprint of friend, ally, or enemy was seen on every political, economic, and military level—we now face new conditions that we must fully understand. These conditions place on us a single and specific responsibility: To rely on ourselves within the framework of a single, cohesive mass to protect our existence, future, and role. Otherwise, we fear we will have to pay for the deals based on the balance of interests and the exchange of benefits out of our sovereignty, pan-Arab security, and right to achieve progress, security, justice, and peace.

For all the attempts to give it the appearance of a human rights issue, Jewish immigration remains a highly dangerous political issue, since the settling of Jews in occupied Arab territory is bound to introduce a new demographic reality reflecting the following elements:

First: It represents an undisputable aggression against the Palestinian Arab individual.
Second: It represents a direct aggression against Palestine.
Third: It represents an imminent aggression against Jordan. The question is, at whose expense are these people to be settled and where will the Palestinian people be pushed?
Fourth: It reflects a premeditated aggression against the entire Arab homeland. It is sufficient to cite the statement by Israel's prime minister on the need for a Greater Israel.
Fifth: It reflects acquiescence by the major powers in Israel's strategy, which is based on excluding peace and stability from this region, just as it reflects an underestimation by these countries of the weight of our Arab nation. If blame is to be apportioned, we must blame ourselves before others. What is taking place, esteemed brothers, constitutes an aggression against Palestine and Jordan together as much as it dramatizes Israeli irredentism.

We have supported and still support international efforts to achieve a just comprehensive peace in our region according to international legitimacy. We have called and still call for convening an international Middle East peace conference to be attended by all parties including the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. We are not against anyone's right to emigrate from his own country, be it from the Soviet Union or from East Europe. But we are certainly against the settling Jews in the occupied Arab territory, and against the manner in which they have been forced to settle there. We all now realize the arrangements for this emigration clearly indicate that the majority of these emigrants have been directed against their will to Israel, which has prepared homes for them according to a thought-out plan that dates from the aftermath of the June 1967 aggression when Israel began to build settlements—beginning with Jerusalem and extending through what it called Greater Jerusalem to all the occupied Arab territory, in violation of the 1949 Geneva Convention and in defiance of world opinion and international law. Where do human rights fit in to what is taking place? Are human rights fulfilled by driving the Palestinian people out of their land? Are human rights fulfilled by the destination and domicile of these emigrants being forced on them? Are human rights honored

by preparations to undermine the fabric of an independent state, which happens to be my country? Since my grandfather—the founder of the Kingdom—managed to have Jordan excluded from the territory covered by the Balfour Declaration, the Zionist strategy has been that Jordan should be the weak point in Israel's area of expansion. With the help of God, we have been able to stand firm on the soil of our homeland, and to save and protect a dear part of Palestine with which we were united and which we cherished as a trust, pending the resolution of the Palestinian problem. We lost this dear part in the Arab-Israeli war of 1967.

Today we are facing a new serious chapter of expansion symbolized by emptying the Palestinian land of its population and expelling them toward Jordan. The 20 May massacre is only one of the ugly examples of the Israeli persecution of the Palestinian people that aims at this objective. This impending danger is not confined to swallowing up the land of Palestine or uprooting and expelling its people. It goes beyond that to threaten Jordan's national security and pan-Arab security. Jewish immigration to the occupied Arab territory is not an issue of human rights, but a flagrant and exposed aggression against the rights of a people, the existence of a state, and the security of a region. These are the dimensions of the emigration of Soviet and other Jewish people. Accordingly, Israel must have selected Jordan out of the broad Arab front as the point through which to penetrate in its premeditated aggression against the Arab nation. It is crystal clear that Jordan, with its limited human and natural resources and its long front with Israel, cannot carry the burden of confronting this danger alone, especially since it comes from a state that receives support in material, armaments, and manpower from the whole world. I am duty bound to protect my country. Similarly, you are entitled to be informed by my country, which is honored to shoulder the responsibility of being stationed on this part of the Arab front, of what is taking place within its sight and on the front with the enemy, and of the aggression the enemy is preparing to develop a new role for itself within the framework of the new world order that is emerging following the end of the cold war epoch. Is there a better role for it to seek than to place the region that contains two thirds of world oil reserves under its hegemony? What do we intend to do? Shall we continue to play the role of an observer of world changes while we see Israel, which is supported by the strongest country, actively organizing itself to achieve its aims at our expense? Israel, which has declared and continues to declare that it considers the presence of any non-Jordanian Arab force in Jordan a direct threat to it, is frankly expressing its aims in front of our eyes. On our side, we are honored to continue to uphold the trust we thus far have upheld. However, I am duty bound to announce before you today that we have reached the point where we cannot continue to uphold the trust unless you enable us now—not tomorrow or in the near future—to remedy our situation, now that we have exhausted all of our material capabilities pending our meeting with you, in addition to the debts incurred by armament and cultural development to counter the military and cultural onslaught.

Our pan-Arab commitment, brethren, must not constitute a tax or a penalty on my country. Rather, it should be seen as an exercise in steadfastness and firmness in the nation's forward trench, and requires giving support rather than withholding it. Throughout the years of the Arab-Israeli conflict, we fulfilled this commitment and upheld the trust. We reaped honor and pride for our nation and for ourselves. Our eagerness to maintain this honor and this pride, and our nation's eagerness to maintain them, require us to seek your assistance and support to continue our steadfastness and firmness and to maintain the impregnability of our trench, which is the forward trench for all of you.

It is no secret to any of you that the devaluation of the Jordanian dinar, which led to a large decline in its purchasing power, has harmed not only your kinfolk in our country, but even more deeply our people in occupied Palestine in way that portends larger catastrophes.

Our severe suffering in Jordan is only a small part of the suffering of our brothers in occupied Palestine, and is also part of their deep and great suffering. It is also a direct reflection of Jordan's economic and financial situation. I do not have to say the results of their steadfastness and their intifadah will be serious if we, in Jordan, are unable to remain steadfast and firm in our location and our position. I do not have to say there will be serious results affecting the entire Arab and pan-Arab security in general if we do not foil Israel's plan in Jordan to keep us the weakest point in the perimeter of its expansion. Israel is trying to turn this point into a gap in our greater homeland's front so it will no longer remain a front tooth of its nation.

Therefore, all we are asking is for you to provide Jordan with the means of its strength and steadfastness so it can entrench the bases of its economic and social security and build its Jordanian military strength on its Jordanian land so it can resist militarily until Arab military support arrives if it is exposed to an aggression. Abandoning Jordan means abandoning Palestine, and abandoning Jordan and Palestine means abandoning pan-Arab security, which is indivisible. The collapse of its front wall will lead to the collapse of its other walls, God forbid.

The Palestinians have provided everything they were asked to by the international community, for which they must be given credit, after we left to them the full responsibility for their cause according to your will and theirs. Although they assumed this with total manliness, honesty, and responsibility, you all know Israel has not responded to any movement toward peace. I do not believe any one of us is not aware of the implications of such a position, of how to confront it, and what the requirements are of this confrontation.

We are a homeland and a nation facing the same dangers and the same challenges and are threatened by one

enemy and many enemies. The enemies do not distinguish between our rich and poor, or between those with large assets and those with heavy debts. We are all at the edge of a volcano whose fire will not distinguish between far and near.

A great duty lies before us, and we must meet it before the results of the international changes grip our necks. As our region has 65 percent of the world's oil reserves, as 40 percent of the oil trade passes through the Arabian Gulf region, and as energy and commercial markets are the most important features of present and future international relations and groupings, the elements of our power are there. But these elements could also pose a very serious danger to our existence if we cannot marshal them and deal with and through them; they will produce very positive results if we use them wisely and are able, through these elements, to place our nation and homeland within the movement of the age and history, not outside it or on the sidelines. We need a common vision based on the indisputable fact the Arab homeland is one.

Brothers: Fraternal Iraq is part of the Arab homeland and the Middle East region, which is gaining further importance as the role of new world economic blocs intensifies, demand for oil grows, and the consumer market expands. Any move against weakness and backwardness in any Arab country is viewed by the forces that are waiting to pounce on our homeland as hostile to their interests and designs. If Israel played an important and major role in the past to protect these interests and designs, then it is expected to play a greater role now that the cold war has ended. Israel now understands that the end to the cold war has provided it with a valuable opportunity. It is no longer committed now, as it was in the past, to render its services to the West only; it can now render its services to both East and West; namely, the industrial countries of the north. In view of this situation, Israel will gain more and more, and it will be secure against pressure applied by any Eastern or Western party.

It is on this basis the smear campaign against Iraq has been launched. For Israel to play its dual role, all features and aspects of weakness, backwardness, and isolation in the Arab homeland must be maintained. Iraq knows that scientific and technological progress helps it, as it helps all other nations, to achieve its development and protect itself. Iraq has departed from the known prevailing condition, which must remain unchanged; namely, the state of weakness, backwardness, and further isolation borne of despair. This is what creates extremism, confusion, and loss; it opens all doors to hegemony and subordination, and closes all doors to sovereignty, independence, and self-reliance.

Since all forces hostile to our nation and homeland believe that Israel must be the sole, deterrent, and controlling power in the region, they consider the development of Iraqi power and Iraq's drive for scientific and technological progress as a hostile act that must be fought with a smear campaign, which is to be intensified until the right climate for direct aggression against Iraq is created.

Fraternal Iraq, however, has faced the situation with all its well-known passion for peace and security and the ability to defend itself and fight back every threat. But if we really want to thwart the malice of the enemies and those who have ambitions in our homeland, then we must agree to deal with the smear campaign against fraternal Iraq on the basis the campaign is directed against the entire Arab homeland. The threats against Iraq are, in fact, against the entire Arab order, against pan-Arab security as a whole, and against our full right to become a part of the age, to obtain science and knowledge, and to build a homeland capable of protecting its peace, existence, development, progress, and its role in human progress.

I call on those who are raising their voices against Iraq and escalating their unjust campaign against it today to adopt a truly ethical stance on the Israeli nuclear arsenal—the only nuclear arsenal in the Middle East. They are also called on to adopt a truly ethical stance on the continuation of Israeli occupation of Arab territories, which has lasted for more than 23 years. They are, moreover, asked to adopt a truly ethical stand on the organized killing and oppression of the sons of the Palestinian Arab people, which is carried out on a daily basis. Furthermore, they are asked to adopt a truly ethical stand on the continuous and escalating attacks against Muslim and Christian holy places and clergymen in the city of Jerusalem—the city of peace and love. They are also asked to adopt a truly ethical position on the rights of the Palestinian Arab individual, which are being violated at every moment without any condemnation or denunciation being heard from those who support human rights everywhere except the occupied Arab territories.

While greeting and hailing fraternal Iraq for its initiative toward peace and the establishment of the best relations of brotherliness and neighborliness with Islamic Iran, I also express great hope that Iraq's initiatives will be met by similar ones from the Iranian leadership. This is because establishing peace and excellent relations of brotherliness and neighborliness between Iraq and Iran would deal a real blow to hostile schemes against the two countries, the Arab and Islamic nations, the Gulf region, and the Middle East at large.

While following with great hope and attention the efforts initiated by fraternal Iraq toward the Iranian leadership, we are confident that parties that are hostile toward peace in the Gulf region and toward us, will all intensify their endeavors to circumvent and foil Iraq's efforts. These parties want to maintain their presence and interests in a climate of tense Arab-Iranian relations. It is the responsibility of each one of us to deprive them of this chance.

Brother President Saddam Husayn, Your Majesties, Excellencies, and Highnesses: We are now going through the most dangerous juncture in our march as a homeland and a nation. What makes this juncture even more hazardous is that we possess all the elements of steadfastness, building, and strength sufficient to thwart all schemes. We have not done so until now, however.

Our world is witnessing profound and widespread changes. The repercussions and negative effects of these changes threaten us; however, we continue to act as bystanders and spectators. It is time for action. For it is illogical that, despite our understanding of the close relationship between defensive, economic, and social security, the strong should refrain from supporting the weak. We are certain, though, that if a weak point in our Arab wall is created, it will be the gap through which enemies and covetous people will infiltrate our one pan-Arab home.

On this occasion, I would like to say that we, thanks be to God, are not ungrateful. We have always expressed appreciation and gratitude to the brothers who have helped, and are still helping us. The magnitude of the challenges facing us, however, and the magnitude of our pan-Arab responsibilities are still much greater than our resources.

It is illogical for us to sing, day and night, the praises of the Palestinian Arab people's intifadah against occupation for their legitimate rights and yet not provide the intifadah with the means to continue, or to provide its kinfolk with the means to stand fast. It is also illogical to emphasize the Arab character of Jerusalem, and of every inch of land under Israeli occupation and yet not fulfill our duty to the Arab character of Amman and Jordan, which are threatened by Jewish emigration and by an Israeli scheme supported by many forces that are concentrating all of their efforts, at this time in particular, to make Jordan the weakest link against present and future Israeli expansionism. It is also illogical that while we, as a nation, face cultural and security challenges, we allow some of our differences and interpretations, whose existence, I feel, is unjustified, to dictate certain positions of ours and to block the building of our own strength and the united ability to resist.

Finally, our situation is much more bitter than everything I have said thus far. It is also worse than everything that has yet to be said. I am fully confident, however, that since we understand the seriousness of the current phase and the gravity of what awaits us, and what is planned for us, we will be able to rise to the level of the trust we hold and to the level of the confidence of the Arab masses in their millions. These masses view our summit as an occasion from which we must emerge with our political will decided in practice, not words, and united, not fragmented, to face the challenges using our strengths, diverse resources, and great capabilities. With these capabilities we can protect our existence, build our future, and fight off all threats to our future generations. I wanted to present these facts to you and to raise my voice to sound the alarm against the threats that will result if our pan-Arab situation continues as it is now. I have talked about my country with such candor and bitterness in the hope that the day will never come in which I and my people in Jordan—men, women, children, and young men—have nothing to repeat on every lip but that painful cry by the Arab poet: They have lost me, and what a brave man they have lost, for he would have defended their frontiers on the evil day. Peace be upon you.

'Arafat, PLO Working To End Iraq-Iran Dispute

NC3005124990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1148 GMT 30 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, 30 May (MENA)—Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, member of the PLO Executive Committee, has disclosed that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and the PLO are making efforts to end the Iraq-Iran dispute, adding that the Iranian side's response to these efforts has been positive.

He pointed out that the mediation efforts will continue as soon as the Arab summit conference ends.

Asked whether 'Arafat will visit Iran, 'Abd-Rabbuh said: Anything that serves these efforts is possible.

IJLP Official on Escalating Jihad Operations

NC2905191990 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 29 May 90

[Excerpts] Three days of public mourning have been declared for 4-6 June in Lebanon to mark the passage of one year since Imam Khomeyni's death. [passage omitted]

An official of the organization of the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine [IJLP] has told our correspondent in Beirut that massive marches will be held in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to mark the first anniversary of Imam Khomeyni's death. He added that Muslim Palestinian mujahidin will escalate their jihad operations and will carry out operations inside occupied Palestine to mark this occasion.

PLO's Qaddumi Urges Bolstering Arab Defenses

LD3005082190 Kuwait KUNA in English 0702 GMT 30 May 90

[Text] Kuwait, May 30 (KUNA)—A Palestinian official has said that the Joint Arab Defense Council is called upon to modernize Arab forces and confront dangers of Jewish influx into the occupied Arab lands.

PLO chief diplomat Faruq Qaddumi told Kuwaiti daily AL-ANBA'S correspondent in Baghdad that the Council should discuss means of bolstering Pan-Arab security and defenses.

Qaddumi attending in the Iraqi capital the extraordinary Arab summit called for by his organization to face threats against Arab national security, said that it was up to the Council members to discuss details of those issues.

Palestinian president and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat had called at first day of the summit on Monday for holding a meeting for that council within two months.

Qaddumi recalled that the PLO had sent memos to Arab (?countries) and held consultations on a Council meeting and recieved positive responses.

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets Arab Leaders in Baghdad

LD2905210190 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 29 May 90

[Excerpt] Dear brothers in the Great Jamahiriyah. The visit of the brother leader of the revolution [al-Qadhdhafi] to sisterly Iraq and his attendance at the sessions of the extraordinary Arab summit in Baghdad are continuing for the second day. Here is a dispatch:

The brother leader of the revolution today attended the morning session, which was the first closed session of the conference. It opened at 1015 and lasted until 1300. Then it was suspended to be resumed at 1900.

The brother leader of the revolution received this morning at his place of stay in Baghdad President Saddam Husayn, president of sisterly Iraq. [video shows al-Qadhdhafi and Saddam walking hand in hand and then talking briefly in a room]

The brother leader of the revolution received this evening at his place of stay in Baghdad President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt. [video shows Mubarak sitting in Al-Qadhdhafi's tent]

The brother leader of the revolution received at noon today Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre. [video shows the two in a room].

The brother leader of the revolution received at his place of stay in Baghdad this morning Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat. [video shows the two in a tent] [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat: Oil Exports 'Instruments of Pressure'

NC2505202490 Paris AFP in English 2001 GMT 25 May 90

[Text] Cairo, May 25 (AFP)—PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat has said he would ask an Arab summit next week to adopt measures to help a 30-month-old uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories and said Arab oil exports to the United States were "instruments of pressure," Al-Ahram newspaper reported Saturday.

Mr. 'Arafat said in an interview the United States would import 80 billion dollars worth of crude oil in 1992, most of it from Arab states. He described Arab oil exports to the United States as "instruments of basic pressure" and said he would ask an Arab summit opening Monday in Baghdad to take "measures rather than resolutions of support to the uprising."

He said if the Palestine Liberation Organisation had "enough financial resources", it would "give tomorrow orders for civil disobedience across the occupied territories." He said this would entail "an economic boycott (of Israeli goods) and an open-ended strike."

Mr. 'Arafat Friday urged the Security Council to dispatch U.N. peace-keeping troops to the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip after a fresh surge of violence this week to protest the killings Sunday of seven Palestinians.

The PLO has called for the Baghdad summit to discuss an influx of Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel and its impact on the territories and the Arab world.

'Arafat To Visit Tehran To Set Up Peace Talks

JN2905164490 Amman Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 29 May 90

[Text] Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani may meet with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn for peace talks stalled since the Gulf war was halted by a cease-fire in August 1988. Iran's parliament speaker disclosed today that Iran had received two letters from President Saddam and had already replied to one. He said Tehran will also respond to the second letter.

In Baghdad, a senior PLO official reported today that the two leaders could meet for face-to-face peace talks to formally end the Gulf war in the next few weeks. He said Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will fly to Tehran this week to pursue a bid to set up direct peace talks and end a rift between Iran and Saudi Arabia. He noted that barring last-minute complications, the summit talks between Saddam and Hashemi-Rafsanjani will be under way in a month.

To Leave 'Soon'

LD2905172390 Kuwait KUNA in English 1440 GMT 29 May 90

[By Za'id al-Sarbel and Yusef al-Yaqut]

[Text] Baghdad, May 29 (KUNA)—Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat will soon leave for Tehran in a fresh attempt to put an end to the Iranian-Iraqi conflict, Palestine ambassador to Iraq said on Tuesday.

Ambassador 'Azzam al-Ahmad told the Kuwait News Agency that 'Arafat "has been exerting ceaseless efforts to pave the ground for a peaceful solution that ends the Gulf conflict" between the two neighbouring countries whose forces fought an 9-year war.

Al-Ahmad could not say when 'Arafat will travel to Tehran, but stated that contacts regarding the Palestinian initiative are still underway. He described Iran's response to the new Palestinian overture as "positive and encouraging."

On Monday, Palestinian president diclosed in his speech to the opening session of the extra-ordinary Arab summit, currently in progress here, that he has been the locomotive by which Iraq and Iran have exchanged peaceful messages recently.

Invited To Visit Moscow

PM3005132390 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 May 90 p 6

[By Layla Dib]

[Text] Baghdad—Informed Palestinian sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the Soviet Union has invited Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat to visit Moscow after the emergency Arab summit conference and the U.S.-USSR summit in Washington.

The sources said that the invitation was conveyed by [PLO Executive Committee Member] Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-Mazin), who recently visited Moscow with a Palestinian delegation, and that the Soviets stressed that they would welcome a visit by president 'Arafat and wished to hear his views on the Arab summit results and to acquaint him with the U.S.-USSR summit results, especially on the issue of the emigration of Soviet Jews.

PFLP Group Clashes With 'Enemy Patrols'

JN2805193090 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 28 May 90

[Text] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] issued a military communique today. The communique reads: In response to the brutal massacre carried out by the Zionist enemy against the Palestinian people, in continuation of the armed struggle against forces of the Zionist army, and in support of the popular Palestinian intifadah, the 'Ayn Qarah martyrs group, an affiliate of the PFLP which operates inside the occupied homeland, laid an ambush for the enemy patrols in al-'Awja' near Jericho.

The PFLP communique adds: At exactly 2200 yesterday, the heroic group surprised the enemy patrols with its intensive machine guns, hand grenades, and anti-vehicular shells, killing or wounding a number of its forces.

Large enemy forces immediately rushed to the area escorted by ambulances and clashed with the group.

Al-'Asifah Claims Explosion At Jerusalem Market

JN2805184590 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 28 May 90

[Text] In a military communique, the General Command of Fatah's al-'Asifah Forces in the occupied territories claims responsibility for the explosion of a charge in the city of Jerusalem. The military communique says: One of our hero revolutionaries belonging to the group of martyr Ahmad Musa al-Dalki, operating inside the occupied territories, planted at dawn today, Monday, 28 May 1990, a high-explosive charge in a bus belonging to the Zionist enemy in the city of Jerusalem. The charge exploded before noon today at the time it was set to explode as the bus was passing through Mahane Yehuda vegetable market in the city center of the 1948-occupied part. This led to the injury of many Zionist settlers, some seriously. It also caused material damage to the bus.

The communique added: Large groups of the Zionist enemy's police and intelligence forces arrived immediately on the scene, besieged the area, imposed a curfew on it and areas in the vicinity, and arrested scores of Arab citizens and workers who were on the scene at the time of the explosion in an attempt to find our hero struggler, who managed to escape and return to his base safely.

Signed: The General Command of Fatah's al-'Asifah Forces in the occupied territories

Fatah's Salah Khalaf Comments on Arab Issues

Urges 'Firm Decisions' at Summit

LD2705114490 Kuwait KUNA in English 0838 GMT 27 May 90

[Text] Kuwait, May 27 (KUNA)—Two senior Palestinian officials have called on the Baghdad Arab summit to take firm decisions coping with challenges facing the Arab nation.

Member of Palestinian Fatah's Central Committee Salah Abu-Iyad Khalaf in an interview with daily AL ANBAA, published here today, that the Palestine Liberation Oranization calls for drawing a plan "to confront all challenges including the United States." He added that the PLO, in a working paper to be submitted to the Arab summit, that is to open Monday in Baghdad, calls for forming an extensive Arab lobby in the U.S. to influence the public opinion there. This lobby will put pressure on the American administration to change its biased policies to Israel, he elaborated.

On the American-Palestinian contacts, Abu Iyad said it is still going on but "are unbeneficial" because there are no positive results.

Regarding the proposed Palestinian-Israeli dialogue "based on Baker's plan" has ended, he said. He added that Israel is the one that cancelled this idea due to its

stubborn stances toward the Palestinian people's rights and its legitimate representative, the PLO.

On the Soviet Jews emigration to Palestine, Abu Iyad said the Soviet Jews emigration to Palestinian people's rights and its legitimate representative, the PLO. On the Soviet Jews emigration to Palestine, Abu Iyad said the Soviet Union's answers regarding the Soviet Jewish emigration are unconvincing, noting that this emigration has no links with human rights but is "a conspiracy" on the Palestinian people.

Meanwhile, representative of Fatah movement to Cairo Zuhdi al-Qidrah hoped in a statement to daily AL QABAS, published here today, that the Arab summit in Baghdad would confront the challenges facing the Arab nation. He also called for an Arab effective stance to stop the Soviet Jewish emigration to occupied Palestine.

Al-Qidrah affirmed that any peace plan that ignores the Palestinian people or its leadership, the PLO, will be doomed to failure. He said "we will not allow others to determine the Palestinians destiny", noting that the Palestinians are aware that the road toward achieving peace is long and harsh but the uprising will win at the end.

The Palestinian official noted that the collapse of the coalition government in Israel was caused by the uprising. He said "we are ready to deal with any Israeli Government on the condition that it responds to the Palestinian peace call."

Discusses Intifadah, U.S. Stand

JN2305072890 Kuwait AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI in Arabic 19 May 90 p 6

[Interview with Fatah Central Committee Member Salah Khalaf by Khawlah Nazzal; place, date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Nazzal] Some people believe that the USSR has withdrawn its support for the Arabs with regard to the Middle East issue. Do you believe that the continuation of the Soviet Jewish emigration to Palestine is the beginning of this change in the Soviet stance?

[Khalaf] I do not believe that the Soviets have reached this point in their position on the Middle East issue. It is true there are differences between us and them regarding the Soviet Jewish emigration to our occupied territory and regarding their excuses, which they attribute to human rights. We did not and will not accept these excuses; we consider them a cover for the American pressure and Zionist lobby, which began to emerge inside the USSR with financial support from the Zionist lobby in the American arena.

I would like to assert here that the USSR continues to be a friendly country despite our differences with it on the issue of emigration. The Soviet stance is still positive and firm toward the right to self-determination and to establish the Palestinian state. This stance cannot—in any way—be compared to that of the United States, which alone bears a big responsibility for the direct and indirect pressure on the USSR, through moving the Zionist lobby, to allow the Soviet Jewish emigrants to leave the country without restrictions.

We in the PLO are not against the freedom of Soviet emigration to any place in the world—to Canada, America, Australia, or elsewhere. However, we are against directing this emigration to our occupied territory, thus intensifying our people's catastrophe. Within this context, we should hold dialogue with the USSR and not place it in the same position as the United States, regardless of the points of differences between us and them on the issue of emigration. We should explain to this friend that by opening the door to Jewish emigration it did not only cross the Palestinian red line but also the Arab red line. Taking into consideration the expansionist and Zionist Israeli mentality aimed at establishing Greater Israel, we will find that the present Israeli policy is not only dangerous for the Palestinians—who received the first, second, and third blows—but also is a direct danger to other Arab positions, because the target of Israel's expansionist policy now is the Jordanian territory, so that its forces can reach the Saudi and Iraqi border, and can be deployed on the Syrian border.

[Nazzal] Some people criticize the intifadah for depending on the method of throwing stones, saying that this is a method of agitation rather than liberation. What is your comment on this, and is there an intention to arm the intifadah?

[Khalaf] Nobody outside the occupied territory can define the nature of this intifadah in which the stone constitutes a basic factor and one of the slogans of the Palestinian rebellion against the Israeli occupation. This rebellion, which has been continuing for 30 months now, will not stop as long as the occupation of our homeland continues. The methods of this rebellion have taken many forms on many occasions—stone throwing, Molotov cocktail attacks, assaults with knives and axes, strikes, demonstrations, and other methods. Our people inside, alone, have the right to define the methods to continue and develop this intifadah toward resisting the enemy.

We, who are outside the occupied territory, cannot, in any case, define or control these methods. Our role is only in preparing all reasons for the success and continuation of this intifadah in terms of material, political, and moral support.

With regard to arming the intifadah, I affirm that we will not think of arming it, and our friends should not think of this either, because if it turns into an armed intifadah, this means its suicide. We will then give our Zionist enemy the opportunity and excuse to grind and liquidate it completely with the most sophisticated methods of destruction. And these we do not possess. We possess rifles, machine guns, and bombs. In other words, there is an imbalance of arms between us and our enemy. We

absolutely cannot be motivated by some people's enthusiasm and slogans calling for promoting the intifadah. We absolutely cannot do anything wrong in the course of the objectives of the intifadah, which gained support from world public opinion through the peaceful means for which it opted from the beginning. I believe that the intifadah neither needs teachers nor daily detailed instructions from outside.

[Nazzal] Some people still believe that there is no full coordination between you and the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah [UNLI]. What is the truth?

[Khalaf] It was possible to ask this question in the first days of the intifadah. But after 30 months, I think the picture is now clear, especially if we know that all statements issued by the UNLI—a total of 55—were signed by the PLO. I do not think for a moment that the UNLI wanted to flatter the PLO outside the occupied territories, because members of Fatah, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], or other organizations inside the occupied territories are members of these same organizations that exist abroad. I think this is a unified movement, an organized political movement. The current intifadah is only one of the revolutions that have been staged by our people since the catastrophe [of 1948]. The latest intifadah is characterized by a long breath because our cause is a complicated one and we are facing an omnipresent enemy. This enemy exists in the world politics and economy; it controls money and media. We are not facing only three million Israelis on the Palestinian territories, but 16 million Zionist Jews spread around the world and supported by others in this world. The battle, therefore, is not short; it needs a long breath, and it cannot be counted by years. The Crusades lasted more than 200 years, and this war is more serious.

[Nazzal] Talking about the UNLI, why does it comprise four Palestinian organizations only; namely, Fatah, the PFLP, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and the Communist Party?

[Khalaf] Because these are the main factions under the PLO umbrella. But through the popular committees, we give the opportunity to all nationalist forces to take part in the UNLI.

But if you mean to ask about Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement], I say that Hamas refuses to join the UNLI despite all our attempts to achieve coordination with it. We made some strides toward this coordination and will continue our efforts. If some people have raised the banner of Islam outside the occupied territories, we try not to reflect this on our relations with the Islamic elements inside so that the Zionist enemy cannot take advantage. But there are many people raising the banner of Islam and trying to swim with the current of Hamas and Islam. We know these and know how they used to act in difficult times.

We know how far these people can go in their opportunistic behavior and trade with Islam, which they practiced on many occasions. This, however, does not reflect on Hamas, which continues to cooperate with Fatah and the UNLI. But we do not favor any distinction within the UNLI. We are responding to Hamas' decision inside the occupied territories without this being our desire or ambition. Our enemy does not differentiate between members of Hamas, Fatah, or the PFLP. We, therefore, accept some harm done to us for the sake of national unity inside the occupied territories. But regrettably, those responsible for this harm are not from the inside but from outside the territories.

[Nazzal] Do you think that Hamas' stubborn position on UNLI divided the Palestinian scene in the occupied territories?

[Khalaf] Neither Hamas nor anybody else can divide the Palestinian scene inside. All developments, especially during the intifadah, have proved that all our people support the PLO, the Palestinian state, and all PLO policies. No organization or movement can separate the Palestinian people from the PLO.

[Nazzal] Despite the announcement of the Palestinian peace initiative, Israeli policy is still more rigid and intransigent, and U.S. policy has not yet advanced on the question of peace or the three no's against the Palestinian state, the PLO, and the international peace conference.

[Khalaf] When we launched the Palestinian peace initiative at the Palestine National Council, we did not expect the American and Israeli positions to change. We were aware of, and predicted exactly the course of their present positions, particularly since the Zionist lobby governs and influences the U.S. Administration's decisions, and some Arabs have told the United States that Israel is not only a danger to the Palestinians, but to some Arab countries as well. Despite all this, I believe that the dialogue with the United States has changed, even if only partially, the U.S. Administration's understanding of the PLO and the Palestinian people's actions and views. This is evident in statements made by President Bush, his secretary of state, and others.

[Nazzal] Do you believe that this slight effect on the U.S. Administration has affected the crux of the U.S. position on the Palestine question?

[Khalaf] The crux and essence of the U.S. position on the Palestine question is still very bad, particularly after the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives recent resolutions defining Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

I believe this position expresses directly and in an unprecedented way the U.S. arrogance and hostility to the Arab and Islamic nation. How can the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives allow themselves to interfere in the region's affairs while claiming to seek peace? And who says we will accept a Palestinian state without Jerusalem? We would rather establish our state in Alaska.

[Nazzal] Do these developments require a new Arab strategy for dealing with the U.S. Administration?

[Khalaf] Of course, the U.S. position is the same as before with regard to our cause. We say to all Arabs, therefore, that we do not the want the Arab summit conference on 28 May to become a mere demonstration and its resolutions to remain mere ink on paper. We call on them to produce sincerely, for the first time, a clear strategy, on which they all agree, to face the challenges against us.

[Nazzal] In light of the accelerating world changes and the intransigent U.S. and Israeli stance on the Palestine question, does the PLO plan to make new concessions, such as amending the Palestinian Charter or accepting autonomy as proposed?

[Khalaf] I strongly reject the terms used by some—terms such as Palestinian concessions and retreat. We in the PLO have neither retreated nor conceded. In 1974, we presented the Palestinian state without defining the nature of the mechanism of this state. In 1988, the Palestinian peace initiative was based on the 1974 decision, on which everybody agreed.

We call on those who are voicing great slogans and want to liberate Palestine from the river to sea, to pick up arms and they will find us the first to fight with them. We seek to establish this state—even by stages and according to the limits of our potential—on part of our homeland of Palestine even by force.

In 1982, the Arabs abandoned the military option and we, the Palestinians, continued to pursue this option. When we presented the peace initiative, we wanted to show the Arab world that we tried to establish our Palestinian state by peaceful means, but in vain. Is it not time for the Arab nation to reverse their decision to abandon the military option and to use force against Israel, which will certainly not withdraw from any piece of land it has occupied except by force.

[Nazzal] We heard recently that Abu 'Ali Shahin [Ibrahim Shahin] was arrested. What are the reasons for his arrest?

[Khalaf] Like you, I was surprised by the arrest of Abu 'Ali Shahin. I do not know why the Egyptian brothers arrested him. I hope that the current contacts with the Egyptian Government will result in the quick release of this struggler, who has spent more than 15 years in Israeli prisons. After these years, it is impermissible to keep him in any Arab prison even for a single day. I personally do not know the reasons for Abu 'Ali Shahin's presence in Egypt, but I hope the Egyptian brothers will at least deport him rather than detain him.

Calls for 'Arab Lobby' in U.S.

JN2905143590 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 27 May 90 p 7

[By Fatimah Mansur]

[Excerpts] Fatah Central Committee Member Salah Khalaf, also known as Abu-Iyad, has stated that an Arab plan must be drawn up to face all challenges, including those posed by the United States. He added that in the working paper it will submit to the Baghdad Arab summit, the PLO calls for launching a powerful Arab lobby in the United States with a view to influencing public opinion there and putting pressure on the U.S. Administration to make it change its pro-Israel policy. He went on to say that the PLO is not asking for the impossible. He said that this PLO proposal is better than the call for boycotting the United States, since there are no chances for such a call to be implemented.

These statements were made in an interview granted by Khalaf to AL-ANBA'. Khalaf began by saying that the Soviet responses regarding the Soviet Jewish emigration are unconvincing. He affirmed that this emigration has nothing to do with human rights, especially considering that it is being pursued at the expense of Palestinian rights. He added that this emigration is linked to a scheme and conspiracy targeting the Palestinian people. He stated: Emigration is the result of bargains over U.S. Soviet ties.

In the interview he gave to AL-ANBA', Abu-Iyad said that 30,000 Soviet Jewish immigrants had arrived in the occupied Arab territories. He added that the USSR drew up new measures and began to issue departing Jews with passports giving them the right to return to the USSR. He went on to say that the USSR has endorsed the right of Jews who have already left, as well as those who will leave in the future, to return to the USSR. Before this, emigrants were given travel documents that left them no choice but to head for Israel, Khalaf said.

On these Soviet measures, Abu-Iyad said that these cannot be viewed as the only guarantees to prevent Jewish emigrants from heading for occupied Palestine and settling there. He emphasized the fact that the United States and some Western European states have so far continued to close their doors to Jews. He added that Arabs must ask the United States to provide guarantees whose implementation would have to be confirmed by the United Nations if the United States actually intends to open its doors to Jews to ensure the effectiveness of such guarantees. Besides, the Western European states must provide similar guarantees for opening their doors before Jews. The two superpowers must also provide guarantees that Jewish emigrants will not be settled in the occupied Arab territories. Moreover, the large number of settlers who have arrived in these territories must be evicted. They should not be settled there.

Abu-Iyad said that, if this objective is found to be difficult to attain, then the USSR would have to halt this immigration pending the establishment of an independent state for the Palestinian people to prevent Jewish human rights from being honored at the expense of Palestinian rights, which is reminiscent of what happened after the 1948 war. This is happening right now in the wake of the detente between the two superpowers, Khalaf said.

As regards the Israeli-Palestinian dialogue and the Palestinian view on the future and direction of this dialogue at this point in time, Abu-Iyad said that this Israeli-Palestinian dialogue, which was to be based on Baker's plan, has been finished off. He said that the Baker plan has become a thing of the past. In this regard, he said that Israel is the party which obstructed the initiation of this dialogue by its continued pursuit of intransigent stands on our Palestinian people's rights and their legitimate representative. He added that the PLO's view in this regard is that this dialogue was buried under the collapse of the Israeli national unity government. [passage omitted]

On the PLO's views which are expressed in the Palestinian working paper submitted to the forthcoming Baghdad Arab summit, Abu-Iyad said: The PLO believes that an Arab plan must be drawn up to face up to all challenges, including those presented by the United States. He added that the working paper submitted to Arab leaders does not request a declaration of an economic war on the United States or anything of the sort, since such objectives are impossible to achieve with the Arabs. We demand that pressure be put on the United States, and that we make serious efforts to achieve this objective, just as the Jews have been doing. We Arabs must initiate efforts to influence the U.S. public and the U.S. institutions. That is, we must make intensive efforts within the heart of U.S. society through the launching of a powerful "Arab lobby" involving all Arab communities in the United States. [passage omitted]

Abu-Iyad affirmed that the PLO, in the working paper it submitted to the summit, has ensured that no impossible provisions are contained in it. Khalaf said: The PLO has taken into account the need not to include proposals whose implementation is beyond the Arabs' abilities. For example, the paper has not urged the targeting of U.S. interests or that an Arab economic boycott of oil or other assets be used, as the Arabs do not implement resolutions espousing such proposals. He added: Why should we mock ourselves and demand the impossible? He indicated that the PLO believes that the implementation of its proposal, which calls for the launching of a powerful Arab lobby, is better than calling for a boycott of the United States, [not further specified], since the latter measure will have no chance of being implemented by the Arabs.

On U.S.-Palestinian contacts, Abu-Iyad said that they are continuing at present. However, they are useless, since they have failed to produce any positive results, he added. He indicated that discussions and talks on the Baker plan stopped when this plan was thwarted by Israel.

Regarding the forthcoming summit of the two superpowers and how the Arab summit resolutions will affect the talks between Presidents Gorbachev and Bush on the Palestine issue, Abu-Iyad said: According to the PLO, whether the Middle East conflict will be discussed by the two presidents or not is not important. What is important are the measures that the two superpowers will take and the decisions that they will make. He indicated that the United States continues to hold the key to any possible pressure on Israel. In contrast, the USSR does not have any instruments of pressure to apply on Israel. This gives the United States the key influence when the issue is discussed, Khalaf added. [passage omitted]

Regarding the PLO's accomplishments in Eastern European states, especially in the wake of the changes that have engulfed them and resulted in the restoration of ties with Israel, Abu-Iyad said: We were horrified when Eastern European changes began to manifest themselves. In spite of the effects created by the resumption of ties between some of these states and Israel, we as Arabs must view this issue from a broader perspective. [passage omitted]

Salah Khalaf affirmed that Eastern European states have not changed their positions on the PLO, Palestinian people's rights, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, despite the changes that have swept these states. He indicated that the PLO has contacts with all parties and forces in every Eastern European state whenever elections are held there. He said that this is better than past behavior, when the PLO used to deal with a single party representing a minority of the people. He added that the PLO will cooperate with all Eastern European parties without exception. He went on to say that there is no Eastern European party that refuses talks with the PLO, or that has not so far held talks with it, referring to small as well as large parties.

Abu-Iyad added: These parties have said that their positions are clear and will remain favorable toward the Palestine question. He said that the PLO has thus won and not lost. [passage omitted]

'Arafat on Possible Fact-Finding Mission Talks

LD2705205190 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 27 May 90

[Excerpt] Brother leader Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, has revealed that consultations took place during the past few days on the fringe of the Security Council meeting in Geneva concerning the dispatch of a tripartite delegation to the occupied territories in order to study the situation there and present a detailed report to the Security Council prior to the issue of a resolution in this regard.

Brother leader Abu-'Ammar considered the idea of sending a tripartite delegation to the occupied territory as not a bad step. He pointed out that the PLO has

agreed to this proposal, but that Israel is still refusing to accept it, so that the world does not discover its crimes. [passage omitted]

PLO Official on U.S. Memo, Summit, Issues

JN2805084090 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic
25 May 90 p 22

[By Fathi al-Barqawi]

[Text] Faruq Qaddumi, alias Abu-al-Lutf, head of the PLO Political Department, has said that the U.S. memo to the Arab summit contains directions incompatible with public taste and customary diplomacy. He said it is necessary that Arab public opinion be acquainted with this memo to show the extent of the arrogance of U.S. power, which has become the singular superpower. Abu-al-Lutf, moreover, said the Soviet memo emerged from the principle of friendship with Arab countries.

The head of Palestinian diplomacy also said the U.S. stand is neither novel nor strange; for Washington continuously declares its support for Israel and its practices. Every U.S. Administration has been accustomed to declaring its friendship and partnership with Israel. This, he added, increased Israeli recalcitrance and strengthened its rejection of constructive international initiatives to establish a just, lasting peace in the region. It has been proven through experience, Abu-al-Lutf added, that the United States is not serious about its endeavors to establish a just settlement in the region. By virtue of its bias, the United States is, moreover, incapable of acting out such a role. Therefore, the PLO asserts that an international conference, to be attended by the five permanent Security Council member-states, is the most suitable means of reaching a just solution.

Asked whether the U.S. memo to the summit contains any positive aspects, Abu-al-Lutf said: The United States is used to making statements and later violating them. He cited a U.S.-Soviet statement issued in 1977 by Gromyko and Vance which, 48 hours later, was violated through a statement issued by Dayan and Vance.

Abu-al-Lutf denied Palestinian-Egyptian differences. He explained that both parties, however, have submitted separate working papers which were discussed, and then the Palestinian paper was approved after being somewhat amended. He added that these details have not been included in the Palestinian peace initiative which was approved by the [Palestine] National Council.

Abu-al-Lutf continued: The Palestinian paper insists that Israeli threats are backed by the United States. Few Arab parties have expressed reservations regarding this issue, and this led the committee tasked with devising a formula to refer the issue to Arab leaders to do what they deem appropriate in this regard.

Abu-al-Lutf also described the call for open peace as surrender to U.S. and Israeli conditions. He rejected this call and opted for adherence to the conditions through which national Palestinian rights can be regained, and not through more flexibility which is construed by these forces as a sign of weakness. He noted the continuation of the U.S. hard-line policy after Washington's approval to establish a dialogue with the PLO.

Abu-al-Lutf also rejected the Egyptian paper which calls for peaceful coexistence between the State of Israel and the Palestinians, stressing that this means depriving the Palestinians of their independent identity. This is the bone of contention which the Palestinian delegation tenaciously rejected.

Asked about Syrian presence in the [Baghdad] Arab summit, he said Damascus is a substantial force facing Israel. He expressed hope that Damascus would attend the summit meeting, explaining that efforts are still underway to bring Syria to the summit. He noted the efforts made by Algerian, Palestinian, Iraqi, and other sides to this end. He further stated that Syria's absence will have a negative impact, and that no Arab country likes to see Syria absent from an Arab summit concerned with pan-Arab security.

Abu-al-Lutf said Israel might carry out acts of aggression at any moment. He cautioned the Arabs against believing U.S. frequent assurances in this regard, because it deceived the Arabs in the past. He recalled late U.S. President Lyndon Johnson when he reassured late Egyptian President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir in 1967 and asked him to send Zakariya Muhyi-al-Din for negotiations, and the next day Israel carried out its well-known aggression. Note also the Israeli invasion of Beirut and the storming of Sabra and Shatila camps.

Abu-al-Lutf asked the Arabs not to be complacent and unalert, and to be ready for deterrent action. He explained that the Arab summit will take into consideration developing defensive capabilities of Arab countries. He also said the Arabs' possession of modern technology will limit Israel's intransigence, facilitate the peace process, and increase pressures by other countries on the United States and Israel.

Abu-al-Lutf added that the Israeli age has ended. World developments, he contended, will not help Israel to initiate a wide-scale strategic war. Israel, however, might carry out preemptive strikes. This, on the one hand, should be taken into consideration. On the other hand, the internal pressure on Israel, the non-availability of an international consensus in favor of Israel at this stage, in addition to the nonexistence of any outside justifications, place Israel in an embarrassing position if it attempts to carry out a wide-scale offensive. If it carries out such an offensive, however, Israel will suffer heavy losses of which it had never conceived, especially that the intifadah is currently preoccupying 75,000 Israeli soldiers.

Asked to choose a rubric for the next Arab summit, Abu-al-Lutf chose "Establishing the Bases of Arab Security."

Algeria

Ben Bella Says Country Verging on 'Upheaval'

AU2805103490 Paris AFP in English 1008 GMT 28 May 90

[Text] Paris, May 28 (AFP)—Former Algerian president Ahmed Ben Bella said Algeria was verging on the sort of upheaval that Romanians experienced to overthrow dictator Nicolae Ceausescu last December, in an interview with Europe 1 radio.

Mr. Ben Bella, who was overthrown in 1965 and now lives in exile in Switzerland, charged that the regime of Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid "was finished" and had "broken with the people". "The Algerian military is getting ready to do the same thing that happened in Romania and blame Chadli for everything, as happened to Ceausescu," he said.

Mr. Ben Bella, 73, one of the leaders of the Algerian war who held power for three years after independence was declared from France in 1962, also declared that he was not an "ally" of a new force on the Algerian political scene, the Moslem fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS). The ISF has recently mobilized tens of thousands of sympathizers in protest marches in Algiers, and is posing the toughest challenge to the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN) in the June 12 local elections in Algeria, the country's first multiparty vote since independence.

Several of the 25 parties officially recognized since Algeria adopted a multiparty law last July are boycotting the vote, including Mr. Ben Bella's Movement for Democracy in Algeria.

Mr. Ben Bella also said he would "not remain indefinitely abroad", but still feared for his security in Algeria and would return home "when the political situation is ripe". The former president was imprisoned for 16 years after his overthrow and has lived the last nine in Switzerland.

He stressed what he called the urgency for Algeria to "find a democratic political solution within the next six months". He also advocated setting up a "committee of wise men" to draw up a minimum democratic program to pave the way for free, multi-party elections and the formation of a national unity government. He said he would not stand as a candidate in any future presidential election, but would be ready "to assume power during a dangerous period".

APS Comments on Necessary Election Conduct

LD2805115190 Algiers APS in English 1031 GMT 28 May 90

[Text] Algiers, 28/05/90 (APS)—At a time when the national economic reorganization continues, the electoral campaign for the local and regional councils goes on and will enable for the first time in the country to measure the political forces and draw the indications.

Some political parties are undertaking a very active campaign and one can note elements of disorder among militants who provoke incidents and even some formations practice more invective than reasonable discourse.

These things must be said on the first totally free electoral campaign because we need to set up in our country traditions in conformity with the deep values of the Algerian personality which are distinguished by a clean language, a worthy behavior, an attitude full of understanding and tolerance and finally a conduct that is characterized by an absolute respect of other persons and their attitude.

It is important that the political parties, their leaders and their militants must work in order not to depart from courtesy and laws that commend the public order. The universal suffrage is the basis of democracy and to harm it with words or acts is a capital crime as this will hurt the opinion with violence and blacken democracy. After choosing the way of democracy on February 23, 1989, by the mass adoption of the new constitution, Algeria has got rid of the obstacles for freedom and every citizen must exercise his rights in dignity and in the respect of laws of the republic.

But the deviations of a recent past without freedom of expression or an active participation of the people in the management of public affairs, have the merit of making citizens more vigilants and who will no longer let a partisan autocracy seize power. Anyone aspiring to power must ask it from the people.

Democray, with its defects and even its perfections give citizens means to repair breaches when they exist and avoid the frightful disarrays of consciousness which may often end in turbulent awakening.

Reportage on Visit by Vietnam's Vo Chi Cong

Arrives in Algiers 26 May

LD2605182390 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 May 90

[Excerpts] At the invitation of Mr. Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic, Vo Chi Cong, chairman of the State Council in Vietnam, arrived this morning in Algiers for an official seven-day visit to our country. President Chadli Bendjedid was on hand at Haouari Boumedienne International Airport to welcome his guest, who is accompanied by government members [words indistinct]. The chairman of the Vietnamese Council of state made a statement to the national press in which he said:

[Begin recording] [Vo Chi Cong, in Vietnamese, fading into superimposed Arabic translation] I am very pleased to visit beautiful Algeria for the first time. It is a country with an ancient civilization and with glorious traditions of the solid struggle for independence and freedom. [passage omitted]

My visit to Algeria comes at a time when the situation in our two regions and in our two countries is witnessing deep changes. I am confident the exchange of views between His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid, other Algerian officials, and me will succeed in consecrating foundations, creating new possibilities for widening bilateral cooperation in various fields and will elevate relations to a higher level. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Discusses Ties With Bendjedid

LD2705204690 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 May 90

[Excerpts] The Vietnamese head of state, Vo Chi Cong, has been in our country since yesterday. He held a round of political talks today with the president of the Republic, President Chadli Bendjedid. [video shows the two heads of state sitting in a lounge.]

The tete-a-tete talks were later broadened to include members of the Algerian and Vietnamese delegations, and addressed bilateral relations and ways of strengthening and widening their scope to include other spheres. The two sides also discussed issues of mutual interest. [passage omitted]

Further on Activities

BK2805163390 Hanoi VNA in English 1503 GMT 28 May 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 28—A ceremony was held in Algiers in the afternoon of May 26 by the municipal administration to present the capital city's key to Vietnamese State Council President Vo Chi Cong who was on an official friendship visit to Algeria.

Speaking at the ceremony, the Algiers Mayor praised the Vietnamese people's heroic struggle for national liberation and considered the presentation of the key a symbol of the Algerian people's respect and admiration for the Vietnamese people.

In the evening, President Chadli Bendjedid gave a reception in honour of President Vo Chi Cong and his party.

In the morning of May 27, President Vo Chi Cong laid a wreath at the War Memorial and called at the Museum of Revolution in Algiers.

The same day, he held talks with President Chadli Bendjedid. The two leaders informed each other of the process of renovation and reform of their respective countries. They compared notes on measures aimed at [increasing] the efficiency of the cooperation between the two countries as well as on some regional and international issues of mutual concern. Both sides were satisfied at the unanimity of views on all issues brought up at the talks and affirmed their determination to further strengthen mutual support, assistance and cooperation between the two countries in all fields.

On this occasion, President Vo Chi Cong invited President Chadli Bendjedid to visit Vietnam. The latter accepted the invitation with thanks.

The talks took place in an atmosphere of fraternal friendship, mutual trust and understanding.

President Vo Chi Cong and his party left Algiers in the afternoon of May 27 for several localities in Algeria.

Egypt

Arab Summit Said to Convene in Cairo in Nov

NC2905151590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1329 GMT 29 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, 29 May (MENA)—MENA has learned it has been decided the upcoming ordinary Arab summit will be convened in Cairo in November. MENA has also learned it has been decided to convene the Arab summits periodically and regularly at the permanent Arab League Headquarters in Cairo. MENA has learned this decision was made unanimously.

Two 'Extremists' Arrested for Attack on Police

NC3005054390 Cairo MENA in English 2336 GMT 29 May 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, May 29 (MENA)—Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa condemned today last Sunday's act of wounding four police officers in an assault by a group of extremists on officers in Qina, Upper Egypt.

"The security agencies arrested two of these extremists," said the interior minister in statements to reporters, adding that agencies were pursuing efforts to locate the other eight fugitives. "They are to be expectedly arrested within hours following availability of important information about them," he said, explaining that police agencies would not be lenient in the confrontation with outlaws as they would lash out severely at everyone trying to violate legitimacy and undermine security and stability in Egypt. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Weekly Blames Gorbachev for Emigration Rise

LD3005084690 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0759 GMT 30 May 90

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 30 May (KUNA)—The Kuwaiti weekly MIR'AT AL-UMMAH published today criticizes the attitudes of both the United States and the Soviet Union toward the Middle East issues, particularly the question of Palestine and the Iraq-Iran conflict.

It says our attitude toward the Americans is well-known; similarly, the Americans' attitude toward us is well-known. The recent message U.S. President George Bush sent to the Baghdad summit was nothing but flagrant interference in Arab affairs and an attempt to dictate Washington's will on the Arabs. The weekly adds: We poured out our anger over the Americans when tens of thousands of Soviet Jews arrived in Palestine, but why should we overlook the role of the Soviet Union in this—the Soviet Union, which allowed the emigration and facilitated it? The magazine points out the main reason for the emigration is Soviet President Gorbachev, and no one else. Attack and blame should be directed against Gorbachev and Gorbachev alone. [passage omitted]

We should not forget, too, the magazine concludes, that the Soviets announced their wish to mediate between Iraq and Iran in order to apply Resolution 598, and we then were surprised to hear the Soviets had supplied Iran with the new MiG-29 aircraft and modern tanks.

PDRY

Further on Actions Following Unity Declaration

Sanaa Security Forces in Aden

EA2805182990 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 27 May 90

[Text] This morning at the Hall of Martyr Salih Qasim Husayn in the Radfan military camp [near Aden], Colonel Mutahhar Mus'id Muslih met the soldiers, noncommissioned officers, and officers of the central security force who arrived from the historic capital Sanaa to perform their tasks in the economic and commercial capital, Aden.

At the meeting, brother Col. Mutahhar gave a briefing on the content and purpose of Yemeni unity and the fact that it was a living crystallization for which our people heve been known throughout the ages. He called for the need to employ all resources to preserve this great achievement. He said it behooved the security personnel to be vigilant and maintain law and order in the unity state.

Brother Col. Mutahhar then listened to the observations of the men of the central security force who had arrived from Sanaa, connected with their residence and the circumstances of their work in the economic and commercial capital of the Republic of Yemen. He replied to their observations and pledged that the leadership of the Ministry of Interior and Security would provide all the necessary facilities for them to discharge their duties.

Council of Ministers Meets

EA2805215090 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 27 May 90

[Text] Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the Council of Ministers, this morning chaired the Council's first meeting. At the beginning of the meeting, the brother chairman spoke and welcomed the brother members of the Council, saying: We are fully confident of our ability to bear the enormous responsibilities and tasks which are to be shouldered by the Council of Ministers. In addition to those enormous tasks, the eyes of all our Yemeni people are on the Council of Ministers since it is the first government of the state of unity and, inasmuch as it is able to tackle the basic issues and lay a firm foundation to construct the state of unity with its various institutions, so will it perform at the level of trust placed in it by the Presidential Council. We look forward to this government having the confidence of the House of Representatives when it presents its program.

The brother chairman added: In the course of our work, I am confident all the brother ministers will work as one team, complement each other's work, and exchange views on various issues with a responsible and constructive spirit so that as a council we shall finally reach correct decisions tackling the different issues which come to the Council in its various tasks.

Concluding his statement, the brother prime minister expressed his confidence that the Council of Ministers, having agreed to bear the responsibility and having had trust placed in it by the Yemeni people, would work together shoulder to shoulder, in a sincere and fraternal spirit to enable us to rise to the occasion. We should speak frankly on the various issues. He wished all success.

Following this the Council reviewed all the subjects on its agenda, including the endorsement of the provisional internal statutes of the Council. The need for reorganizing the presidium of the Council was stressed to help it achieve the tasks given it. It was agreed to adopt the internal statutes, following the introduction of appropriate amendments, but work is to continue speedily on the new statutes. The minister of state for legal affairs will be asked to cooperate with the minister for legal affairs to draft the new internal statutes for the Council of Ministers.

The meeting also stressed the need to complete the government's statatement by the date fixed. A working group to prepare this statement was formed to prepare it and submit it to the Council of Ministers for approval and presentation to the House of Representatives.

The Council also discussed the bills that will be presented to the House of Representatives and took the appropriate decisions regarding them. The Council members also considered the aspects relating to completing the locations of the ministries and the central institutions and departments in Sanaa and their branches in Aden. A definite plan was agreed on the transfer of employees in every ministry, and ministries and institutions must be merged completely within three months.

A plan was also agreed to complete the appointment of deputy ministers, undersecretaries of ministries, their assistants, and general directors, in addition to other leading officials.

The Council also reviewed a memorandum presented by the brother minister of finance concerning the regulation of the government's expenditure and revenue during the period July-December 1990. The Council took the appropriate decision concerning this matter.

Representatives Hold 1st Session

EA2705083390 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 May 90

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council and secretary general of the General People's Congress; brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, deputy chairman of the Presidential Council and secretary general of the Yemen Socialist Party Central Committee; and the brother member of the Presidential Council opened the first session of the House of Representatives [majlis al-nuwwab].

The brother president delivered an address in which he said: In the name of God and the people, I declare open the first session of the House of Representatives and would like to extend a warm welcome to the members of the House of Representatives who came from the governorates of the Republic to the historic capital, Sanaa.

The brother chairman of the Presidential Council, addressing the people's representatives, said: You bear a heavy responsibility [word indistinct] in the next stage, since the House will be considering about 45 bills, and you will be required to approve them and decide on them promptly to enable the state to conduct its work and [words indistinct] the agreements already concluded. I am fully confident the brother deputies are aware of these great tasks, and may all exercise the duties assigned according to the Constitution.

Then the brother president informed the members the deputy As'ad Hamzah would chair the procedural session, during which the members of the House of Representatives would be sworn in.

Following that, brother Dr. Yasin Sa'id Nu'man was elected speaker of the House of Representatives by an overwhelming majority.

Brother Nu'man then spoke to the House of Representatives and expressed his deep thanks to the members of the House for electing him to this difficult position, and said: We ask everyone to cooperate in fulfilling the tasks, which are complicated under the present circumstances the Republic of Yemen is experiencing. We are fully confident our joint work [words indistinct] and deal with all the challenges facing this Council.

Following that, nominations were requested for the election of a presidium of the House. Five members put themselves forward: Yusuf Muhammad Al-Shihari, Sa'id Muhammah al-Hakimi, 'Ali Muqbil al-Fatimi, ('Ali Lutfi al-Ghusayn), and Muhammad 'Ali Abu Lubum.

A (?scrutiny) committee was elected from members of the House: Muhammad Salim ba Sundduwah, Dr. Salim 'Umar Bukayr, Salih 'Abdallah Lahmar, Yahya Muslih Naji, and 'Abd al-Wahid [word indistinct]. The election was by secret ballot and brothers ('Ali Lutfi al-Ghusayn), Yusuf Muhammad al-Shihari, and Sa'id al-Hakimi were elected.

Representatives Hold 2d Session

EA2905104590 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 27 May 90

[Excerpts] Brother Dr. Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, speaker of the Council of Representatives [majlis al-nuwwab], this morning chaired the Council's second meeting within the framework of its first parliamentary session. At the beginning of today's meeting, a number of deputies were sworn in, as they had not been sworn in during the first meeting.

After this, the Council formed a committee from among its members to prepare a draft of the internal statutes of the Council of Representatives. They were asked to speed up their work and submit it to the Council within a week. This committee's members are brothers Husayn 'Ali al-Hubayshi, Ahmad 'Ali al-Matari, Muhammad Salim ba Dinar, 'Ali Nasir al-Bihiti, Ja'far ba Salih, Taha 'Ali Salih, 'Abd al-Hamid Sayf [name indistinct], Sultan Ahmad 'Umar, and 'Ali Lutfi al-Thawr. [passage omitted]

The Council hailed the extraordinary Arab summit in Baghdad, pointing out that the convening of the summit represented a new hope in the service of our Arab nation's causes and a confrontation of the challenges facing it with a view to meeting them and uniting the Arab nation.

Saddam Receives Libya's Al-Talhi, Message

JN2705165090 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1618 GMT 27 May 90

[Text] President leader Saddam Husayn this evening received Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, secretary of the Libyan People's Committee of the People's Bureau for External Liaison and International Cooperation. Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi conveyed a verbal message to his excellency the president from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, president of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, dealing with the brotherly relations between the two countries and issues related to the extraordinary Arab summit scheduled to be held in Baghdad tomorrow. The meeting was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Summit Shows Arabs 'Facing Critical Dangers'

JN2905165890 Baghdad INA in English 0658 GMT 29 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, May 29, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily of Baghdad described the current Baghdad Arab summit as that of Arab will that would decide the details of joint Arab action in the era of unity, might and progress.

A daily commentary here today said that Arab leaders meeting in Baghdad were capable of achieving objectives of the summit which would reflect aspirations of the entire Arab nation.

The daily added that the Baghdad summit would confront all imperialist designs and attempts to impose hegemony on the Arab region.

It added that the Arab will was realised in Iraq's great victory in its eight year war, success in the determination of acquiring the mastery of advanced technology and the declaration of the Yemen unity and also the daily successes scored by the Palestinian people in their gallant uprising.

The daily stressed that the summit resolutions would pool in the course of highlighting Arab will in the international arena and the logic of right which confirms gravity of ignoring this will in any change, agreement or resolution over this region.

The BAGHDAD OBSERVER said that the Arabs are in dire need of inter-Arab solidarity if they were to protect their interests and sovereignty. Faced with mounting American support to Israeli aggressiveness, the Arabs agree that unless they get united their countries would be liable to invasion and aggression, be that political, economic or military.

The daily added that the conference of present Arab moves has to be coordination and cooperation in the face of repeated Israeli threats. Apparently, the Arabs are now convinced that without such coordination and cooperation, they will not be able to confront Israel's ever-growing thirst for expansion at the expense of the Arabs. Most Arabs have come out with the conclusion that the most appropriate course for achieving a strategic balance with Israel is furthering their solidarity and cooperation.

The daily further said that the Middle East is a region where Israel has been trying to build up a stronger military power than all the Arabs combined. This is the cause of the region's constant instability and war flare-ups. Creating an equal Arab power would serve as an element of stability which can halt Tel Aviv's arrogance and aggressiveness in dealing with the regions of Arabs and the security of the region as a whole.

Faced with the mounting Israeli threats, Israel's expansionist schemes as shown by the present influx of Soviet Jews into occupied Arab territories and the US collaboration against Iraq and other Arab countries, the Arab leaders gathered in the present summit find themselves cornered with no option but to unite in defence of their very existence. Whether the Arabs can succeed in achieving this goal is yet to be known. However, the mere acceptance of the fact that they are facing critical dangers is a positive sign which will most probably be followed by stronger Arab cooperation and coordination, the daily concluded.

Arabs Urged 'To Re-draft' Relations With U.S.

JN3005091490 Baghdad INA in English 0820 GMT 30 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, May 30, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily for today has confirmed that the unified and effective stand is a decisive condition and a major start-point to push forward solidarity and Arab joint action.

In its editorial the paper has said that the Arab unified and active stance will enable the nation to face challenges and foil them and to preserve her interests and firm and legitimate rights in addition to protecting her national security against any breakthrough.

The paper called on the Arab nation to re-assess her international relations on the basis of the principle of balance of interests and mutual respect of rights, pointing to President Saddam Husayn's saying "we declare with a strong voice that no one whoever [he] is has the right to entertain priority in our resources and riches at a time when he fights us or opposes our scientific and technological advance ".

AL-THAWRAH daily also has called on the Arab nation to re-draft the Arabs relations with the United States of America and other world states on the basis of the attitude towards the Arabs legitimate rights and national security.

The paper concluded by confirming President Saddam Husayn's saying that the United States had essential and rather first-class responsibility for the aggressive expansionist policy of the Zionist entity, pointing to identicality of interests of America and the Zionist entity and its alliance strategically with it (Zionist entity) through the military and economic support and the political cover for carrying out its aggressions and crimes.

'Terrorists' Attempt To Infiltrate Nizzanim Coast

IDF Spokesman's Statement

TA3005124690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1222 GMT 30 May 90

[Text] The following is the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman's announcement:

Four terrorists were killed and several others were captured this morning during a terrorist attempt on Israel's coast. Our forces sustained no casualties. The many civilians along the coast were not harmed.

This morning several terrorist speed boats tried to reach beaches in central Israel. A terrorist boat was captured during the encounter. Another boat landed at the Nizzanim shore in the south. Four terrorists were killed and several others were captured during the pursuit carried out with the participation of infantry forces and helicopters. The terrorists' speed boats were launched from a ship which came from Benghazi port in Libya. They were launched some distance from Israel's coast, with the terrorists intending to carry out mass killings. The mother ship continued on its way, apparently toward Port Said. The Egyptian authorities have been notified.

Police Chief Comments

TA3005132790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1215 GMT 30 May 90

[Interview with Police Inspector General Ya'aqov Terner by Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe on the Nizzanim coast "a short while ago"—recorded]

[Text] [Menashe] Commissioner Ya'aqov Terner, the incident is over, and the terrorists were either killed or captured. Could you reconstruct what happened here today?

[Terner] I can reconstruct the police's role in the incident. The chief of staff will undoubtedly touch on the Army's role. As far as we are concerned, sometime after 0900 we were informed a boat with 11 terrorists had landed on the Nizzanim coast. We received this information from civilians who were on the beach this morning. Both the Army and the police were then put on alert. The Army might have been brought into operation even earlier, in accordance with the tasks and responsibility it shoulders in this sphere, but I do not want to elaborate here.

As far as we are concerned, we rushed numerous forces to the site, including border policemen, and erected blocks along all roads to secure the area from the arrival of other forces. We were afraid we would face the problem of terrorist forces moving onto the roads. The roads therefore were secured very early, which disrupted life in Israel, but we had no choice. I myself arrived here at about 1030. On the way we gave additional instructions regarding the reinforcement and deployment of police over the entire region. When I arrived here, both IDF and police forces were already in operation. Here I want to pay tribute to the Air Force helicopters that operated over this sandy and bushy area where movement is very difficult. We all know the area south of Nizzanim. The helicopters kept the situation under control, and did not allow anybody to raise their heads or move around. They did most of the work here. The land forces also played a role, of course. Without them, without wounding or capturing the terrorists, the incident could not have been concluded.

To the best of my knowledge, the result of the encounter is four dead terrorists and seven taken captive.

[Menashe] The sum total was 16, was it not?

[Terner] I am not addressing myself to figures beyond the 11 referred to in Nizzanim. The chief of staff can better inform you of the rest of the details involved in the incident.

Shamir Preparing To Submit 'Minority Government'

TA2905074590 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 29 May 90

[By party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel]

[Excerpts] Yitzhaq Shamir does not have a majority of 61 Knesset members [MK's] willing to support his new government, and because Shamir's adamant refusal to give MK Rehav'am Ze'evi the police portfolio has left Moledet outside the coalition, the odds are against him getting such a majority next week.

Shamir can gather 59 supporters in the Knesset. He is, therefore, preparing to establish a minority government, relying on the abstention of Agudat Yisra'el. Likud sources estimate the two Moledet MK's will not join the left wing against the government, but will abstain, thereby creating the following picture: 59 for, 55 against, and six abstentions—two from Moledet and four from Agudat Yisra'el. [passage omitted]

Last night, undisclosed sources reported that a businessman acceptable to both Shamir and Rabin is mediating between the Alignment and the Likud in a bid to set up a unity government to be entitled: Emergency Government for Immigrant Absorption. According to these reports, Yitzhaq Rabin will be the new government's defense minister, while Peres will be the vice prime minister and minister of housing, construction, and immigrant absorption; in addition, Peres will head the absorption cabinet. Sources close to both Shamir and Rabin have denied these reports. [passage omitted]

U.S. 'Connivance' With Israel on Baker Plan

JN2905155290 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 29 May 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Last March Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir rejected U.S. Secretary of State Baker's plan for

a settlement in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Following this rejection, the then-existing government coalition collapsed—the Likud under Shamir, and Labor led by Shim'on Peres, who supported the Baker plan.

More than two months have passed awaiting the formation of a one-party government in Israel, during which Peres failed in his efforts, while it is expected that Shamir will succeed in forming his temporary government, called the extreme-right government because it depends essentially on the support of the extreme religious parties.

Shamir does not hide the fact that when he forms the new government he will not abandon his opposition to the Baker plan, which was the reason behind the collapse of his coalition with Peres, who backed the plan.

Meanwhile, the Israeli oppression against the popular intifadah in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip is increasing and the terror and ugliness of the massacres is intensifying, coupled with information that Shamir and the other extremist Zionist leaders actually stand behind this bestial oppression and terrorist massacres, including the 'Ayn Qarah massacre south of occupied Jerusalem last week. It is clear that establishing Shamir's authority in the government is closely connected and timed with the stepped-up massacres and oppression and refusal to discuss even the Baker plan, which was set up in the first place to save Israel after its international reputation and image were smeared with mud.

In light of this very clear picture about what is happening inside the Israeli government and the occupied territories, we do not believe that anyone—regardless of how naive—could be optimistic about the proximity of establishing peace or a partial or total settlement, especially after the fresh waves of Jewish emigration have whetted the appetite of the Zionists to annex, expand, and attack.

If this is the case, then which logic can explain the television statement made by U.S. Secretary of State Baker yesterday, in which he expressed his hope for possible movement toward a settlement in accordance with his plan in the West Bank and Gaza Strip when Shamir forms his new government? What linguistic exaggeration is Baker attempting to use to cover up for Shamir's clear and obvious rejection of the U.S. plan, when he says that the coalition government of Shamir and Peres collapsed when it found that it was impossible for it to agree on such a plan; however, he notes that it did not reject it, either.

The collapse of the Israeli coalition government due to Shamir's rejection of the plan; all Shamir's declared and inherent no's concerning this plan; and all the massacres he commits in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip have actually not convinced Baker that once Shamir does form his government, he will finally and definitively say 'no' to the U.S. plan after having repeatedly done so in practice.

Is it really naive on Baker's part to continue wagering on his plan while awaiting Shamir's no? Such an issue cannot be naive. It is clear connivance and an obvious U.S. coverup for all the obstacles Israel places in the way of peace, and all the crimes it commits in the occupied Arab territories. Washington is a partner in the time game played by the Zionist leaders to put an end to the intifadah without paying a price for it—not even the worthless minimum included in the Baker plan.

Vanunu Appeal in Treason, Espionage Case Rejected

TA2705070990 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0630 GMT 27 May 90

[Text] A few minutes ago, the Supreme Court in Jerusalem rejected the appeal of Mordekhay Vanunu who, as may be recalled, was sentenced after being convicted on espionage and treason charges. Our legal affairs correspondent Mikha'el Birenhack reports from the court:

At around 0900, the president of the Supreme Court announced the verdict behind the closed doors of courtroom No. 1. We decided to reject the appeal, both concerning the conviction and the sentence. Defense lawyer Avigdor Feldman and his client are currently conferring and reviewing the verdict in the Supreme Court building.

It has been learned that Vanunu may ask for another hearing before a larger panel of the Supreme Court. The 89-page verdict was written mostly by Me'ir Shamgar, president of the Supreme Court. Justice Eli'ezer Goldberg appended his own opinion, while Justice Dov Levin only added his concurrence.

Within 30 days Feldman and prosecutor 'Uzi Hason will convey their opinion concerning the publication of additional portions of the verdict. It is believed that additional portions will indeed be published.

Vanunu has another 14 years to serve in prison. The options open to him are to ask for another hearing, apply for amnesty, and, in due course, request that his sentence be commuted. He is being held in solitary confinement in Ashqelon Prison. Strict security arrangements were made in court to prevent even eye contact between Vanunu and the numerous journalists here, including Peter (Hunam), the journalist who uncovered the affair.

Unity With Saudi Arabia Reportedly Proposed

JN2705112490 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1100 GMT 27 May 90

[Text] It was learned from Arab diplomatic sources in Amman today that the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has proposed to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia that unity be established between the two Kingdoms in order to boost the Arab nation's defense line. The sources did not mention the Saudi reply to this Jordanian offer.

King Husayn had earlier said he will deliver a clear, strong, and definitive speech at the Arab summit conference in Baghdad on his country's situation and the difficulties it is facing.

ACC Official Denies Report

JN3005080690 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 30 May 90 p 1

[AL-DUSTUR team dispatch from Baghdad]

[Text] Baghdad—Replying to a question about reports that on the eve of the Arab summit, Jordan, a member the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC], proposed unity with Saudi Arabia, ACC Secretary General Hilmi Nammar said the reports are unfounded, and there are many forces trying to spread confusing reports. He also said Jordan is eager to maintain unity of opinion among the ACC member states. He added: Let us not forget that Saudi Arabia is a member of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

Crown Prince Receives Soviet Military Official

JN3005081390 Amman Television Service in English 1900 GMT 29 May 90

[Text] This afternoon, Crown Prince Hasan the regent received General Kleymenov, the deputy chief of general staff of the Soviet Armed Forces. His royal highness and General Kleymenov reviewed bilateral relations, regional issues, and new developments in both the Arab and international arenas. Attending the meeting were the Soviet ambassador and the Soviet military attache in Amman.

Hasan Receives U.S. Group, Urges Just Peace

JN3005081790 Amman Television Service in English 1900 GMT 29 May 90

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, warned against the consequences of Israel's continued attempts to Lebanonize the region. He said Israel is seeking to divide the region into feeble sectarian cantons dominated by extremism and violence unless a just and comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict is reached. This settlement, the crown prince went on to say, should guarantee the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

The regent's remarks came during a meeting with the Mission for a Just Peace in the Middle East, currently visiting the region. The crown prince recalled that his majesty the king has warned of the dangers posed to Jordan and the Arab nation by Israel's expansionist policies and the immigration of Soviet Jews to the occupied Arab territories. He said this immigration poses a real danger to the Palestinian people's human rights.

His royal highness called on the international community, the United States, and the permanent members of the Security Council to expedite a just and comprehensive solution to the problems in the region, especially as Israel continues to threaten Arab national security. The crown prince also called on the international community to pay attention to the human rights and dignity of Arabs living under Israel's occupation. The delegation includes former Senator and former head of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Charles Percy, former U.S. senators and congressmen, politicians, academics, journalists, businessmen, and clergymen.

Ministry Introduces Water Distribution Program

JN2805093290 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 28 May 90 p 3

[Text] (J.T.)—Jordan is taking part in a three-day symposium organised in Algiers by the European Community (EC) to discuss proper means to rationalise the use of water resources for agricultural, industrial and domestic purposes.

Minister of Water and Irrigation Dawud Khalaf left for the Algerian capital Sunday at the head of a Jordanian delegation to take part in the meeting which is being attended by countries within the Mediterranean basin.

The meeting, which is due to open Monday, will deal with means of protecting water resources from excessive use by improving the level of water resources management and the efficiency of technicians employed in water-related affairs.

According to Khalaf, specialists in water affairs from different countries of the world are taking part in the symposium.

Earlier this month, Khalaf warned that Jordan's estimated use of water for domestic purposes alone could reach 260 million cubic metres annually by the year 2005, up from 180 million at present.

In view of the scarce resources of water in Jordan, due largely to the poor rainfall this year, the Ministry of Water and Irrigation has started a water distribution programme since the beginning of May. The ministry expects excessive consumption of water during the summer in view of the presence of a large number of expatriates visiting the country.

Meanwhile, a report in AL-DUSTUR Arabic dialy on Sunday said that the ministry had decided to stop water

pumping to Amman from the Dayr 'Alla region in the Jordan Valley to save water for irrigation purposes in the valley.

The report quoted Ministry of Water and Irrigation secretary-general as saying that the measure will be implemented only during the summer.

"There is a shortage of water supply in the Jordan Valley and the decision was taken to stop pumping water from Dayr 'Alla to Amman came as a result of coordination between the ministry and the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA)," according to JVA Secretary-General Muhammad Bani Hani.

Shortly before the decision to stop water supplies to Amman, which took effect Friday, Bani Hani said water was pumped for eight hours daily during the night, and at the rate of 10,000 cubic metres, down from 124,000 cubic metres when the pumping first started in January.

Al-Hirawi Responds to Message From King Fahd

NC2905153290 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1430 GMT 29 May 90

[Text] Saudi King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, who is taking part in the extraordinary Arab summit in Baghdad, has addressed a message to President Ilyas al-Hirawi. A special Saudi envoy conveyed the message to President al-Hirawi this afternoon.

In the message King Fahd says: As part of the mission entrusted to the Arab Higher Tripartite Committee by the Casablanca summit to find a fundamental and comprehensive solution for the Lebanese problem, and in light of the constant contacts between us, Moroccan King Hassan II, and Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, we thought of preparing a full report which includes a review of the latest developments in the Lebanese arena, an assessment of the current situation in Lebanon, and an outline of the steps which would help implement the al-Ta'if agreement and support the legitimate authority in Lebanon.

King Fahd added: In coordination with Moroccan King Hasan II and President Chadli Bendjedid, I am sending you a copy of this report. I hope that the draft resolution on Lebanon, which the Arab tripartite committee will present to the current Arab summit in Baghdad, will gain your support and approval so that we can realize our goal of restoring Lebanon's unity, sovereignty, and independence and enabling it to play its role in the Arab household.

President al-Hirawi responded to the message by thanking King Fahd for the efforts he has made with King Hassan II and President Bendjedid to resolve the Lebanese problem. He expressed his support for all the points included in the higher tripartite committee's report and pointed out that Lebanon is willing to support any Arab consensus which would benefit Lebanon and the Arabs in general.

Ja'ja' on Support for Papal Nuncio's Peace Plan

NC2805211190 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 28 May 90

[Text] In a statement today, Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' said: We support the move of the papal nuncio in Lebanon, Monsignor Pablo Puente, and we declare our commitment to all the articles in his generous intiative. We also announce our readiness to carry out any practical measures proposed by the papal nuncio or the mediation committee to restore stability and calm to the eastern areas.

He added: Our stand on this peace initiative is not a verbal one. Instead, it is a practical position, which we seek to translate into concrete measures to consolidate the truce, to restore normal life, and to push the whole situation toward achieving peace in the eastern areas as an imperative step to accomplish peace throughout Lebanon.

Government To Buy Weapons From East Europe

NC2805211490 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 May 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi's AL-ITTIHAD quotes a government source as saying that the Lebanese Government will buy weapons for the Lebanese Army from East European countries now that the United States has refused to meet Lebanon's weaponry needs because of the delay in repaying its debts. The same sources said that Lebanon is holding contacts with Czechoslovakia to purchase 120-mm and 122-mm guns and various types of ammunition.

Birri on Government, Situation in East Beirut

NC2805155990 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1430 GMT 28 May 90

[Text] The Amal Movement leader, Minister Nabih Birri, has accused the legitimate government of plotting against the security of West Beirut. He noted everyone supports the security plan except the Lebanese legitimate government. He said that if this plotting continues, we will see what we can do. He stressed that the Amal Movement does not seek to control West Beirut or any of the nationalist parties. Even Hizballah will not oppose the security plan, he said.

Birri said that the solution lies in implementing the al-Ta'if accord. He noted that the problem in Lebanon is that sectarianism is still stronger than the homeland. He pointed out that 'Awn is acceptable in a cabinet, but he should set the rifle aside and try to effect changes through democratic means. He said that 'Awn has frozen the eastern area and the Christians and forced them to emigrate, and his stand has frozen the legitimate government. Ja'ja', he said, has done the same by his hesitation.

Amal, Hizballah Clash in West Beirut

NC3005091390 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 30 May 90

[Text] There were clashes involving the use of machineguns and rockets between Amal and Hizballah in the al-Hajjaj area of al-Shiyah this morning. The clashes occurred as the Syrian forces were beginning to implement measures in several areas of West Beirut and the Southern Suburb, including the closure of party offices, the removal of gunmen from the streets, and the deployment of patrols.

Blast in West Beirut Causes Material Damage

NC2905193690 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 29 May 90

[Text] An explosion occurred in the al-Mulla area in West Beirut at approximately 2140 today. The blast resulted from the explosion of a bundle of dynamite placed under a black Fiat Ritmo vehicle. Only material damage resulted.

'Improvisation' Seen in Arab Summit Preparations

JN2905062290 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 28 May 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Damascus has lately been at the center of hectic Arab activity to lend strength to the Arab position and arrive at a successful pan-Arab vision to lay the foundations for effective solidarity. Syria has always led the call for pooling and mobilizing Arab resources in the interest of our fateful struggle against the Zionist enemy. Syria has again and again sounded the alarm, urging Arab unity and solidarity, and warning against the dangers international changes carry for the Arab nation, if the Arab countries remain passive onlookers that neither react to developments nor address their consequences.

The current state of affairs in the Arab world mirrors a deep, multi-faceted crisis—a political and economic crisis, as well as one of confidence between the masses and their leaders. Numerous slogans have surfaced lately with some parties adopting unconventional approaches, and there has been talk about dangers emanating from countries that did not include Israel and the Zionist movement. Cards have thus been shuffled and Arab solidarity has been further eroded. Many kept away from the main arena until the impending Zionist danger reared its head, this time reinforced by a massive wave of Jewish immigration to occupied Arab land and a blueprint for Greater Israel. We all know that Greater Israel not only means gobbling up and Zionizing all of Palestine, but also whetting Zionist ambitions for neighboring states and their resources, particularly oil.

Syria had led the way in calling for a summit with a view to attaining Arab solidarity and rising to the serious challenges and onerous pan-Arab responsibilities. It was President al-Asad who first sounded the alarm and went to the Soviet Union carrying the concerns and worries of the Arabs. The sorry and tattered state of Arab affairs requires rebuilding over a fairly long period, after careful study and firm steps. Syria set about closing Arab loopholes and addressing weak points. Toward that end, Syria held contacts with a number of Arab countries, called on Arab leaders to hold consulations, and urged that vital questions be addressed with boldness in the interest of a united pan-Arab vision so the Arab summit can be the culmination of intensive efforts. But some insisted on improvisation at a time when we needed to adapt to major changes around the world and face Israel's exploitation of these changes in the interest of settling 3 million Jews in the occupied land. It is natural that improvisation should fail to confront mounting dangers. The occupied land events and the bestial massacres commited by the enemy, as well as U.S. opposition to the UN Security Council providing minimal protection to our kinfolk in the occupied land have demonstrated that the enemies of the Arab nation are proceeding with their plan and are using Arab haphazardness to translate this blueprint into a reality on the ground. Has Syria abandoned its initiative to achieve real and effective solidarity? The answer is no, as Syria is continuing consultations and is mobilizing all its efforts to build a sturdy edifice, and these efforts enjoy widespread Arab support. There is no question that President al-Asad's talks with Colonel al-Qadhdhafi must be seen in this context. The two Arab leaders have a common unionist orientation that promises a common Arab future.

Damascus Reports Al-Qadhdhafi Arrival, Talks

JN2605143890 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1415 GMT 26 May 90

[Excerpts] Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution in Libya, arrived in Damascus at 1315 today on a visit to Syria. Col. al-Qadhdhafi was accorded an official and popular reception. President Hafiz al-Asad led those receiving him at Damascus international airport. [passage omitted]

Following a short rest at the airport's VIP lounge, the president and Col. al-Qadhdhahfi left in an official motorcade for Tishrin Palace, the place of residence for the great guest.

President Hafiz al-Asad and Col. al-Qadhdahfi held a meeting in Tishrin Palace. The meeting was attended on the Syrian side by Vice Presidents 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Dr. Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. On the Libyan side, the meeting was attended by Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, secretary of the People's External Liaison Bureau, and 'Abd-al-Qadir Urfali, the Libyan Brotherhood Bureau's charge d'affairs in Damascus.

AL-THAWRAH on Al-Asad-Al-Qadhdhafi Talks

JN2705082690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 27 May 90

[From the press review]

[Text] In one of its commentaries and under the headline "The Embrace of Revolutionaries," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH comments on the meetings between His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The paper affirms that the common objectives of both the 8 March Revolution and the 1 September Revolution turned the strong ties between the two revolutions and countries into a firm national and revolutionary tradition whose roots go deep and whose branches reach high in the sky whenever the Arab nation is at a turning point or becomes the target of a conspiracy or an aggression.

AL-THAWRAH adds: When President Hafiz al-Asad and leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi meet in Damascus, their meeting is bound to constitute a prominent and promising station on the way to forging a militant solidarity aimed at strengthening our position in the face of the fateful challenges facing the Arab nation and its present and future generations. When Syria and Libya

stand in the trench of pan-Arab confrontation, they, in this pan-Arab stand of theirs, embody the aspirations of the masses and translate their objectives into a daily persistent struggle.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by saying: Hence, the fraternal Damascus meeting between President al-Asad and leader al-Qadhdhafi acquires special importance. This meeting will contribute toward bolstering Arab solidarity and strengthening the Arab position in circumstances when our nation needs this solidarity now more than ever, and which must involve the broad masses.

Al-Shar' Delivers 'Political Briefing' to Cabinet

JN2905184790 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1550 GMT 29 May 90

[Text] Damascus, 29 May (SANA)—The Council of Ministers held a meeting today and heard a comprehensive political briefing from Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' on the Arab situation in light of the recent intensive contacts and meetings. Al-Shar' also gave a review of Syria's principled vision under President Hafiz al-Asad to establish a serious Arab position in the wake of developments and various challenges to which the Arab nation is being exposed.

The Council of Ministers also reviewed the performances of the services committee and the economic committee, as well as the minutes signed by higher committees of Syria and a number of Arab countries and ways to fully implement their contents.

Some Polling Stations To Hold Elections Again

JN2405220690 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 24 May 90

[Text] An information source at the Ministry of the Interior said today that some election committees have completed sorting the votes won by candidates and have begun to submit their reports on the election results at polling stations to the governorate constituencies' central committees, which will in turn add up the votes won by all candidates in the governorates' constituencies.

The source said that the central committees will prepare an overall report containing the names of candidates and the number of votes won by each and will submit it to the Ministry of the Interior before announcing the final results later.

Interior Minister Muhammad Harbah said that the ministry received from the two central committees of Dayr al-Zawr and al-Ladhiqiyah governorates decisions cancelling elections at three polling stations in the Dayr al-Zawr Governorate and at seven stations in al-Ladhiqiyah Governorate, because the number of envelopes in their ballot boxes did not match the number of people who cast their votes there. The discrepancy exceeded the limits permitted by the general elections law.

The minister pointed out that these rulings proposed that elections at these stations be conducted once again on Thursday, 24 May for the Dayr al-Zawr Governorate polling stations and on Friday, 25 May for the al-Ladhiqiyah Governorate stations. He added: The rulings also called for referring the committees that supervised these boxes to the judicial authorities.

Final Results of Assembly Elections Due Sunday

JN2605061790 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 25 May 90

[Text] Interior Minister Dr. Muhammad Harbah has said that the final returns of the People's Assembly elections for the fifth legislative term are expected to be announced next Sunday.

In a telephone conversation with Syrian Arab Television this evening, the minister said the new People's Assembly will be called into session in accordance with Article 60 of the Constitution and a presidential decree to be issued within 15 days of the release of the results of the vote.

Dr. Harbah pointed out that the final returns from the provinces of Damascus rural area, Hims, Hamah, Halab, al-Hasakah, al-Raqqah, Tartus, Dar'a, al-Suwayda', and Idlib have reached the ministry. The returns of the central committees of electoral constituencies of Damascus, Halab rural areas, Dayr al-Zawr, and al-Latakia are due as soon as the vote counting is completed and the winners are determined.

Answering a question on the overturning of returns in a number of balloting centers in the Provinces of Dayr al-Zawr and al-Ladhiqiyah, Dr. Harbah said this was due to a discrepancy in the number of voters registered in their electoral roles and the number of envelopes found in their boxes, in proportions exceeding the limit allowed by the general election law.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Addresses Grand National Assembly

LD2805211190 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1630 GMT 28 May 90

[Address by Afghan President Najibullah to the Grand National Assembly meeting in Kabul on 28 May—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Dear compatriots, esteemed elders, and worthy representatives of the nation, dear friends and guests:

First of all, I welcome your participation in this great gathering of the people's representatives and elders, which is being held in Kabul, the capital of dear Afghanistan.

The Republic of Afghanistan, based on the good tradition of Afghanistan, decided to convene the present Grand [National] Assembly, along the worthy path of our fathers and forefathers, in order to discuss the draft amendments of the Afghan Constitution. The 1989 Grand Assembly, which was held in the difficult condition of the continuation of pressure and military interference against the Republic of Afghanistan, put a series of measures before the state. In last year's Grand Assembly resolution, duties such as the continuation of the national reconciliation policy, acceleration of the activities by the Republic of Afghanistan to seek a political solution to the Afghan issue, actively leading and carrying out the defense affairs in the state of emergency, making decisive decisions to defend the independence and territorial integrity of the country, expansion of contacts and dialogue with the opposition, and taking measures for the voluntarily return of the opposition, and a series of other measures in the country's national and international policy were put before the Afghan leadership. The Republic of Afghanistan, following the decisions by the 1989 Grand Assembly, continued with the national reconciliation policy, which conforms to the instructions of the sacred religion of Islam and our national interest, and has proposed many measures to find political solution to end the pains of the Afghan people, in conditions according to the world public opinion's belief in the need for a political solution to the issue of Afghanistan. As far as the condition and means allowed, the state has taken practical steps in this direction.

I want to draw your attention, esteemed members of the present Grand Assembly, to the measures taken by the Republic of Afghanistan during last year.

Around 15 months have elapsed since the withdrawal of the Soviet forces. During this period Afghanistan, by organizing armed defense, has defended itself against the various foreign interference and has defended the independent, territorial integrity and national sovereignty of the country. The heroic resistance of our Armed Forces and the defeat of the opposition's attacks in Jalalabad, Khowst, Qandahar, Laghman, Zahol, Oruzgan, and highways and other regions of the country has proved the undeniable ability and reality of the Republic of Afghanistan, its political alliance, and all the patriots of the country who are standing in the defense of the interest of the people and homeland.

The extremists have tried to block the supply routes and cause economic blockades of the cities. They resorted to rocket attacks on Kabul and other cities, economic sabotage, destruction, terrorist activities, and an extensive psycological war. During the last 15 months, the armed opposition, which enjoys the generous assistance of a number of foreign countries and circles, did not spare any means in an attempt to defeat the government by means of force. They tried several times to use new methods in an attempt to defeat the Republic of Afghanistan.

Simultaneously with the continuation of economic and military pressure, the military intelligence of Pakistan, with the cooperation of Gulbuddin and Shahnawaz, tried to blow up the state of Afghanstan from within. It should be said that in the span of our history never has our country been faced with such conspiracies and various types of intervention by a large number of the foreign countries, such a devastating war, and use of different types of deadly weapons. Despite that, all these conspiracies were foiled with the help of Almighty God and the people of Afghanistan, thus the destruction and division of the country was prevented. [applause] I want to say clearly that we will not give a chance to the conspiracies from abroad, nor will we allow anyone inside the country to decide to divide and separate the country and damage the national unity of Afghanistan. [applause]

The Republic of Afghanistan has not only concentrated its measures in the sphere of armed defense, but it has also constantly resorted to peaceful measures and initiatives to end the war and ensure peace. During 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990], the state entered into talks and negotiation with the commanders and armed opposition groups. As a result, more than 879 armed groups including 81,089 persons of the armed opposition, refrained from war. And protocols on the halt of combat operations have been signed with 479 armed groups, which include 69,553 persons.

The above realities demonstrate the fact that the ranks of the opposition are not prepared to follow the warmongering slogans of the leaders of the formations stationed abroad anymore. The majority of the opposition understands the dangerous consequences of the war, which will destroy the Afghan homeland, and are ready with a patriotic feeling of responsibility to stand and defend the territory and national interest

It is not a coincidence that the independent action and lack of obedience of the local commanders for the leaders of the formations stationed abroad are increasing daily. And the internal clashes and discord among the

opposition groups have increased. The bloody incidents which took place in Farkhar, Helmand, Qandahar, Badakhshan, Baghlan, Vardak, and Parvan are obvious to all. At this moment, Peshawar has been transformed into a center of fighting among the oppositions groups. The world saw that the interim government made in Rawalpindi was nothing but a named structure. A number of the formations stationed in Peshawar, before the government was even one year old, understood its uselessness and the proposal for them to hold another election and form another government did not attract the opposition's support.

Today too, inside and outside the country, Afghans know very well who is in favor of peace, democracy, independence, territorial integrity, and the country's development and who wants to leave Afghanistan in the fire of war, discord, disagreement, and backwardness. The understanding of this fact constitutes the foundation for the increasing inclination of the people to the national reconciliation policy and struggle to end war and bloodshed. The current political-military situation gives us this definite result: that war is not the solution and that Afghans have no other choice but the path of talks, assembly, and negotiation for the political solution of the issues.

Therefore, the maintenance of peace in the country is the Islamic and national duty of every homeland-loving Afghan and of every political power, circle, and organization. Because the country faces with the continuation of war further instability, discord, elimination, and destruction, the Republic of Afghanistan, in the economic-social sphere, in proportion with the development of the situation, has taken measures and engaged in actions concerning the elimination of the needs of the people from the viewpoint of the shortage of primary goods. More than 2 million [tons of] goods were transported during 1368; among which 950,000 tons of foodstuff were transfered to Kabul. In consideration of the shortage of primary goods in various parts of the country, the Republic of Afghanistan transported an amount of needed goods to the country's central, north, northeast, south, and southeast parts.

The UN organization and a number of foreign countries took considerable part in the reconstruction of Afghanistan and economic help to returning refugees, for which I would like to express gratitude to all of them in this creditable gathering of the Afghan people. In this connection, the efforts of His Excellency Sadruddin Agha Khan, the organizer UN economic and human assistance to Afghanistan, are particularly notable and worthy of appreciation.

The process of the deepening of the policy of national reconciliation and democracy in the country is continuing, and to further organize social [word indistinct], special measures have been taken. The policy of national reconciliation and the peaceful proposals of the state have been affirmed and supported on the international level too. The 44th session of the UN General Assembly and ninth conference of leaders of the Nonaligned Movement in Belgrade in their resolutions and decisions affirmed the political solution of the problem of Afghanistan and considered inevitable intra-Afghan dialogue moving toward a lasting peace.

More than 500 messages and letters addressed to state, government, and political leaders of various countries of the world and more than 300 letters to political and social Afghan personalities and leaders of the groups, circles, and some organizations inside and outside the country have been dispatched. In these letters their peaceful efforts in these (?destiny-making) conditions of the country have been requested. We express gratitude to those state leaders and personalities who have replied positively to these letters and have taken interest in accelerating the process of searching for political solution, conciliation, and compromise in Afghanistan. We are completely confident that their humanitarian and peaceful efforts will never be forgotten by the people of Afghanistan. We invite all patriotic Afghans in Europe and the United States, among them Dr. Muhammad Yusof, 'Abdul Samad Hamed, 'Abdul Hakim Tabibi, 'Abdul Rahman Pazhwak, Sayyed Qasem Rishtya, Sayyed Shamsuddin Majruh, 'Abdul Ghafur Rawan Farhadi, 'Abdullah Malikyar, Sultan Mahmud Ghazi, 'Aziz Naim, 'Abdul Satar Shalezi, 'Azizullah Wasefi, and other esteemed Afghan personalities outside the country to come to Kabul and familiarize themselves with the situation in the country closely. These of our compatriots unceasingly emphasize the fact that the question of Afghanistan should be solved by the Afghans themselves and have always the principle of [words indistinct]. We ask them: Let us [find a solution] inside Afghanistan. Please come to Afghanistan if you really want a peaceful solution to the country's problems. From the day the Soviet forces left Afghanistan, the ground for active participation in the cause of peace has been prepared, more than ever before. They can confidently and securely establish contact with those opposing the state, Kabul and provincial citizens, and with the newly formed government, two-thirds of which is constituted by neutral and credible non party personalities who seak the way of solution of the question of Afghanistan inside the country.

Esteemed Grand Assembly members, in light of the experience of the enforcement of the Constitution over the past two years and taking into account the rapid development of events at the national and international level, it is necessary to introduce amendments to the Constitution approved by the November 1987 Grand Assembly for the deepening and complete implementation of the national reconciliation policy, the expansion of the period of understanding among Afghans, and the broadening and deepening of democracy in the political life of the society. Draft amendments have been prepared by a commission consisting of leaders of political parties and all social organizations, credible national, scientific, and cultural personalities, and they will be presented to the present Grand Assembly. The draft

amendments have been designed with observance of the principles of Islam, national and historic traditions of Afghanistan, and in keeping with the present realities of our society. In the draft amendments, the undamagable principles of the protection of independence and territorial integrity, and the consolidation of national sovereignty, undisintegratable unity, and Islamic and nonaligned status for our country have been taken into account. Principles of the political system of the Republic of Afghanistan, the ensuring and widening of democratic principles in the sociopolitical life, the economic revival and development of the country in line with the country's requirements and international situation have been drafted in the amendments.

On the proposal of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee, the privileged status of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan has been dropped in the draft of the new preamble of the Constitution.

State's efforts to create propitious conditions for attainment of the entrenchment of the permanent neutral status of our country and its demilitarization have been drafted in the preamble.

Taking into account the fact that the religion of the people of Afghanistan is the holy religion of Islam, the word Islamic has been added to the draft amendment of Article 1 of the Constitution. [applause] Thereby, the definition of Article 1 of the Constitution becomes comprehensive and complete and underlines the very scrupulous composition of our country's Islamic character, alongside its other characteristics: independence, national unity, traditional neutrality, and nonalignment, which are introductory characteristics of the Republic of Afghanistan.

The future completion of the political system of the Republic of Afghanistan, based on the principles of a multiparty system and [words indistinct] has been envisaged in the draft amendment of the Constitution, and for this purpose, new elements of democracy have been defined in the draft. In the draft, traditionally accepted principles of the country and accepted world principles regarding the procedure of Grand Assembly and Meli Shura [National Assembly] election, i.e. elections through general, equal, secret, and direct suffrage have been taken into account. To protect democratic fundamentals which have a precedent in our country's past, the establishment of provincial, district, and municipal councils and wards have been stipulated. They will be elected by the people.

A judiciary and public prosecution have been evisaged neutral and not linked to political parties in the draft amendment of Article 5 of the Constitution to enforce democratic principles in the political life of society and to maintain and deepen the independence of the organs that safeguard laws. In line with the spirit of democracy and the principle of the equality of rights and obligations of the citizens before the law, the circumstances of the assessment of accusations brought against high state positions and the procedure of their putting on trial has been, for the first time in the history of the country, been envisaged in the draft of amendments to the Constitution. In line with the principle of preference of high national interests and benefits, it is foreseen in the amendment of the country's Constitution that those citizens of the Republic of Afghanistan who themselves or their wives are not born to Afghan parents cannot be appointed as senior (?military) officers or diplomatic officials. [applause] Esteemed Grand Assembly members, you are aware that a 12-year destructive war in our country has inflicted heavy losses on the country's national economy. The revival and redevelopment of the national economy is the state's most important task. Thus in the ammended draft, attention has been paid to the part and role of various sectors of the national economy, particularly the private sector. In the ammended draft, those cases that were dependent on the state's complete guidance on the economic, trade, and [word indistinct] activity have been eliminated and permission has been granted to investment by the private sector for utilization in forests, grazing lands, power resources, mines, and the buying and selling of communicatin means. Also the creation of share-holding banks, mixed insurance for air transport [as heard] have been (?permitted).

I would like to point out that as a whole the amended draft has been (?adjusted) to the existing realities of society and reflects the powerful elements of Afghan patriotism. The approval of the ammended draft will prepare the ground for the complete realization of the policy of national reconciliation, the creation of understanding among Afghans, the consolidation and deepening of national unity, and the enhancement of the country's defense capability and economic capacity. It will also bring about broader legal bases toward deepening the policy of national reconciliation and democracy and the active participation of forces, parties, political circles, personalities, tribes, clans, and various nationalities of the country and the socio-economic and political welfare of the country. It is obvious that these measures are a great step toward the maintenance and further consolidation of democracy. However, it should be remembered that to whatever degree we eliminate the tools of force and pressure—even to the point of demilitarizing the country—that will result in preparing the path for democracy and further freedom, to that degree, there is a further need: that a vacuum and shortcomings should not be created in society, but in its place, law and the government of law should show its ironlike and strong hands. [applause] We will not allow the government of law, national discipline, and social order to be negated through abusing democracy and public order nor transformed into harming and working against our persecuted people.

Esteemed friends, respected Grand Assembly members, when we recall the signs of last summer's Grand Assembly, the result shows that the aforementioned

Grand Assembly truly adopted correct policies in the difficult conditions of the country.

One of these decisions was the approval of the state of emergency, its extension for another six months, and granting authority to the president of Afghanistan for a further six months. As you know, in the complex developments of the military-political situation in the country, the president of Afghanistan utilized the authority granted to him by the Grand Assembly. And after the lapse of period of the state of emergency, he extended it for another six-month period. During the state of emergency in Afghanistan, the country's leadership made every effort to utilize the powers enshrined in the law of emergency and the law of Supreme Defense Council of the Homeland only in (?exceptional) circumstances, when, the country's independence and national unity were endangered, and under other conditions a normal course continued. The law of the Supreme Defense Council of the Homeland helped the Republic of Afghanistan in that Council, as the high military-political organ in the conditions of emergency, could lead the realization of the policy of national reconciliation, the resolute and reliable defense of the independence, national sovereignty, and the consolidation of the defense capability of the country in a centralized manner.

Despite the fact that interference in the affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan is continuing and the extremists, time and again, perpetrate terrorist and sabotage activities, in an attempt to expand the grounds and possibilities for arriving at an all-national understanding, the participation of all-Afghan political forces in the realization of the policy of national reconciliation, the provision of conditions for the participation of all forces, circles, and Afghan personalities in the work of the present Grand Assembly and their participation in the drafting and approval of amendments in the draft constitution and a sense of other national questions, the state of emergency was lifted on 4 May [sentence as heard].

Dear Grand Assembly members, you know that recently, in continuation of the republic of Afghanistan's measures, I appointed esteemed Fazl Haq Khaliqyar as prime minister-designate to introduce his policy and cabinet and ask for a vote of confidence from the Wolasi Jirga [People's Assembly] for the implementation of national reconciliation policy and for providing the most appropriate ground for the ever broader participation of the people in the administration of state affairs. The new prime minister formed his cabinet, taking into consideration the country's present and future developments and obtained a vote of confidence from the Wolasi Jirga. The formation of the cabinet and Council of Ministers conforms with the present policy of the state, based on the monopoly of power by the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [as heard], to provide grounds for the participation of other forces and personalities in the administration of the country's affairs. But the removal of the power monopoly should not be taken as the abandoning of our principled and righteous position nor the acceptance of the monopoly of others. Therefore, most of the members of the Council of Ministers are independent non-party personalities. Among the 36 members of the cabinet, 23 of them are non-party personalities, and an absolute majority of the cabinet have higher specialist educations long-term work experience in the previous states. They were appointed on the basis of merit, competence, qualification, and honest service to peace, not on the grounds of ill mechanical standards and [word indistinct]. All in all, the formation of the new government will be considered another important step for the complete implementation and the deepening of national reconciliation policy and the securing of democracy.

Dear representatives of the nation, existing realities and facts in our country and at the global level clearly show that the necessity for a political solution, the cessation of war, and the ensuring of peace have become more important with each passing day in our wretched country. The absolute majority of the people of Afghanistan inside and outside the country want the ever quickly restoration of peace.

I deem it necessary here to inform you Grand Assembly members on the new proposed mechanism of the Republic of Afghanistan in light of the political solution of the Afghan problem.

Our proposed new mechanism entails this fundamental principle: The free expression of the determination of the people of Afghanistan through free and general elections, in a free and democratic atmosphere and under international supervision, is one of the key issues for the cessation of war and the securing of all-out peace in the country. To reach this goal it is necessary that first there be a cooling stage to prepare the minds of the two sides and to provide the preliminary conditions for understanding and negotiation. This stage will include the cessation of the firing of some weapons by the belligerent sides; a partial, local, or general cease-fire; the establishment of the contact and links at the basic level; and even the creation of a sort of coalition of the forces.

In this connection, we suggest to the United Nations that the Republic of Afghanistan is ready to hold a referendum in the areas under state control or areas controlled by the opposition on the necessity of a cease-fire and the cessation of war. We are ready to prepare all due facilities for the fulfilment of this matter.

This referendum, on the one hand, will ease the beginning of negotiation with the sides involved and, on the other hand, will provide a favorable condition for the UN humanitarian aid in the various parts of the country with a later decision which is being anticipated in the transitional period.

After the cooling stage, talks and negotiation should start with involved sides inside and outside the country, who sincerely want a political solution through talks. In order to create a favorable condition for talks and dialogue, it is necessary that a complete cease-fire should be declared

and observed between the sides participating in the talks. Talks are impossible in the condition of the continuation of war.

The issue of Afghanistan has a foreign aspect too, in addition to its internal issue. And a number of countries, either directly or indirectly, are involved in it. Therefore, we have proposed the convocation of an international conference to deal with the foreign aspects of this issue.

In our proposed mechanism, a cooling period has been considered for [word indistinct] followed by our transitional period. The transitional period starts with the beginning of the negotiation process and will continue up to the end of the process of elections for a broad-based government. In the transitional period all the necessary measures should be taken between two poles, that is from the beginning of negotiations, end of elections, and formation of a broad-based government, between these two and in this space, all the necessary measures should be taken to prepare parliamentary elections, such as formation of an election coordination commission, establishment of commissions to draft a constitution and law on elections, convocation of an elected Grand Assembly, election of a president by this Grand Assembly, return of refugees, and creation of such a condition in which the power of arms should not be used. All these measures should be carried out. Also, in the transitional period, both sides should keep their regions under their control and their armed forces.

In the above mechanism, the interest of all the political parties and organizations inside the country and also the interest of the formations and personalities who are in favor of peace and a political solution of the issue have been considered too. The ways of the solution mechanism of the political issue of Afghanistan have been discussed with the vice presidents, prime minister, chairmen of both houses of the Meli Shura, People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan leadership, leaders of political parties and alliances and after their approval have been sent in separate letters to the presidents of the Soviet Union and the United States for their information during their forthcoming talks, so that they can take this into consideration during their talks on the solution of the issue of Afghanistan.

Esteemed Grand Assembly members, in this worthy gathering of representatives of the people of Afghanistan, with a feeling of great responsibility before the people and future destiny of the country and following the committment I gave to the 1987 and 1989 Grand Assemblies and the pledges that I made to the nation of Afghanistan, I mention that the Afghan state, with the help of Almighty God and your support—worthy representatives of the people and Muslim nation of Afghanistan—will, in the future, continue its peaceseeking efforts to decisively end the war and establish peace in the country. [applause] The defense of the great interest of the country, the protection and safeguarding of national independence, territorial integrity, Islamic identity, and national honor are the guidelines of all the foreign and internal programs of the Republic of Afghanistan, and will remain so.

I want to mention to you, dear compatriots, once again that the country's leader considers as his important duty to pursue and observe the principles and tenents of the sacred religion of Islam and will decisively defend the country's national interest, independence, territorial integrity, and national honor and heritage against violation. [applause]

We will spare no effort to bring an end to the war as soon as possible and begin our country's reconstruction. As is obvious, the cessation of war is not only the state's duty, but requires reciprocal action from other forces too. We have consistently declared cease-fires and paused in combat operations and have stayed loyal to them unless attacked by the other side.

I would like to point out that in the near future the Peace Front of the Republic of Afghanistan, which in principle would be a center for a gathering of all forces, circles, groups, social and national figures of Afghanistan, will be formed. This front will have the duty to prepare the condition for the active participation of all forces, parties, organizations, circles, and personalities, who support the cause of peace, in the destiny of the country to achieve national unity and cohesion among the Afghans.

Esteemed Grand Assembly delegates, the Republic of Afghanistan, in the sphere of foreign policy and for the sake of strengthening and expanding relations with the countries of the world, has carried out a series of measures bearing tangible results. The stance of the ninth conference of the Nonaligned Movement, the 43d and 44th UN General Assembly session regarding the peaceful and political settlement of issues concerning Afghanistan, is proof of the fact that the pragmatic forces of the world have a realistic attitude toward the problems and issue of Afghanistan.

We express our appreciation for the efforts of the United Nations and Perez de Cuellar, the UN secretary general, for accelerating the search for methods leading to the political settlement of the issues concerning Afghanistan and the UN's humanitarian and economic assistance for Afghanistan under the leadership of His Excellency Sadruddin Agha Khan. We hope that in the future too the efforts of this prestigious international organization toward ending regional conflicts, particularly in Afghanistan, will bear more fruit in order to achieve a comprehensive peace.

The Republic of Afghanistan desires strengthening reciprocal useful relations with all countries of the world, in the first place with the neighboring countries and the Islamic states, and will expand and consolidate these relations on the basis. Esteemed delegates, I, once again, frankly declare in this great Grand Assembly of the people of Afghanistan that the only wise and realistic way toward (?ending the tragedy) of the people of Afghanistan is all-round negotiations and understanding

to achieve peace. And no political force—no political force—will be able to restore peace to the country on its own.

I want to officially invite all political forces and partics, organizations, circles, national and social personalities to perform, with a sense of responsibility, their national and Afghan role in ensuring peace and the reconstruction of Afghanistan. Here, as a servant of the homeland, I deem it necessary to address all parties, organizations, commanders, political and social personalities, Afghan elders and clergy, inside and outside the country: Let us put aside all grudges, differences, our group, party, and personal interests and sit with each other and ponder in order to rescue the house of Afghans from further destruction. [applause]

We should no longer see each other through the sights of the gun. No power other than Afghans can resolve the Afghan problem. Let us all learn from the bitter experiences of the past years, think of our national interests, and no longer let Afghans become tools in the hands of aliens and the target of spiteful intervention by aliens. [applause]

We are hopeful that all opposition parties and personalities inside and outside the country will act with a sense of responsibility vis-a-vis the new proposed mechanism which fulfills the legitimate interests of all concerned Afghan sides and bring peace to the people of Afghanistan. The grave consequences of seeking excuses and of irresponsible, narrow-minded, obstinate, and monopolistic stands by the opposition will rest with them and they will be answerable before Almighty God and the persecuted people of Afghanistan.

In line with the previous proposals for the speedy cessation of the destructive war, I once again state at this credible gathering of representatives of the people that the Republic of Afghanistan is ready to engage in negotiations with every organization of opposition personality in every region, inside or outside the country. I also state to those commanders inside the country who are still holding positions of hostility and seek the continuation of war that we are ready to establish contact or understanding with them in any part of the country or in Kabul, secretly or openly. The security of their life is guaranteed in the regions under the control of the state. We hope that the internal commanders will render service to the poor people in whatever regions they may be by creating communication lines between cities and various parts of the country to deliver hunanitarian assistance from the state and from the United Nations.

Esteemed members of the Grand Assembly, we believe that only issuing declarations and engaging in press conferences cannot solve the problem of Afghanistan. If anyone expects that without accepting a series of realities and active and practical participation in the process of peace they can meet the old demand of the persecuted Afghan people—that is the cessation of war and establishment of peace—it will be far cry from realism and political vision. When we remember the comforts of yesterday and look at the direction of Afghanistan without war at that time, we see that even in those tranquil conditions the regime of the past feared giving freedom and democracy to the people. And finaly, if they take a step in this direction or a measure [words indistinct].

However, as a humble servant of my homeland, as a son who has been tasked by the faithful and courageous people of Afghanistan to serve, on this historic day, trusting in Almigahty God, and with the support of you courageous children of this land, I pledge, as is worthy of an Afghan man, to realize the righteous aspirations of our suffering people with resolute will, firm steps, and broad patience and take determined and courageous steps toward the cessation of the destructive war, the establishment of peace, democracy, and the fundamental freedoms of the people. [applause]

As I pledged in the Grand Assembly of 1987, I now, once again promise that the innumerable difficulties of the continuation of the imposed war, foreign interference, and the application of force by the warmongering extremist forces will not become the cause of our heartbreak and despair and, God willing, we will continue until final victory on this road of peace and stablity which beongs to the destiny of the faithful people of Afghanistan. We will continue our sacred efforts toward the maintenance and consolidation of democracy, and that too in the hot conditions of war which is unprecedented in our country. [applause] Almighty God help and guide us on this path of freedom and salvation. Success comes from God. [applause]

Addresses National Assembly

LD2905200590 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1630 GMT 29 May 90

[Speech by President Najibullah at the end of the fourth session of the Meli Shura, National Assembly, in Kabul on 29 May—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful:

Esteemed members of the Meli Shura of the Republic of Afghanistan, in line with the provision of Article 86 of the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan, the fourth session of the Meli Shura of the country will end at the first week of the month of Jawza [starting 21 May]. The Meli Shura ends this session at a time when the Grand [National] Assembly has been convened and made important decisions. During this session of the Meli Shura you have made very valuable decisions in the political, economic and social fields of the country that have undoubtedly played a role in the process and consolidation of democracy; in the realization of your constituency demands, proposals and criticisms and generally met the demands of all Afghanistan's people. Over the last week, the People's Assembly has assessed the cabinet and policy of the designated government

which were presented by esteemed Khaliqyar, the prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, and after a wide-ranging delibration given it a vote of confidence. You learned about the formation and expertise and professional experience of the new government and put forward your demands and proposal during the exchange of views with representatives on behalf of your constituencies.

I must also mention that during the debate, the exchange of experience, conveying the constituencies' demands and the debate on the policy of the government designate you displayed your patriotic sense of responsibility for the fate of the country and its people. We believe that this parliamentary tribune will be a manifestation of realism, providence, a sense of responsibility and discipline so that such an atmosphere will emerge in the parliament of the country and the government and the state of the Republic of Afghanistan will be helped in taking the most important sociopolitical issues. [applause] We highly assess the participation of a large number of members of parliament in assessing the new government policy and hope that the prime minister will be able, with help of God and the cooperation of you, the representatives of the nation, to implement the approved policy.

Esteemed members of the Meli Shura, you know that the Grand Assembly of the people of Afghanistan has been convened to assess the amendments to the Afghan Constitution and to set out a new mechanism to find a political solution to the problems of Afghanistan. Amendments in some sections of the Constitution, which are new steps to broadening and consoliding democracy, will definitely open the way for an end to war and a political solution to Afghanistan's problem. The new mechanism for a political solution, which has been approved by members of the Grand Assembly once again provided a basis for the beginning of understanding and for negotiations between all forces. We had detailed discussions on the most important economic, political and social issues in the Grand Assembly of the people of Afghanistan. Soon you will be returning to your constituencies which are looking forward to hearing about the constitutional amendments and the fundamentals of the new mechanism for a political solution, as well as the messages and resolutions of the Grand Assembly. We expect you to explain those decisions widely, and inform commanders of the armed opposition, where practical, about the new government's policy and the decisions of the Grand Assembly of the people of Afghanistan.

Allow me to declare the fourth session of the Meli Shura at an end in the name of God the great, in line with Article 86 of the Afghan Constitution, and wish you further success and health from the bottom of my heart. Success comes from God!

Closes Grand National Assembly

LD2905214290 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 29 May 90

[Speech by President Najibullah closing the Grand National Assembly in Kabul in 29 May—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate:

Esteemed members of the Grand [National] Assembly, praise be to God, the work of the May 1990 Grand Assembly is being completed as a success. In this Grand Assembly the most important matters of the country were discussed in a completely free atmosphere. Amendments to the Constitution were approved and other valuable resolutions were adopted. The decisions of the Grand Assembly displayed that we are beginning a new phase of the national reconciliation policy. Your active participation in the Grand Assembly's work is appreciated. Your wide-ranging discussions of the amended articles in the Constitution during Grand Assembly meetings are indicative of our obedience to the noble and laudable traditions of the Afghan people and also reflect a precise and responsible approach toward the country's important national vital matters of every delegate. We can state with confidence that the present Grand Assembly, from its composition and authority viewpoint, is held on a high level. It is clear that we hope that all political forces of Afghan society will, God willing, take part in future grand assemblies.

Since the April 1987 Grand Assembly, great changes have occurred on a national level and in the sphere of international relations. Defending our national honor during the past 15 months independently; the experience of the state of emergency, which proved very effective in repelling and neutralizing foreign armed conspiracies and intrigues; and the experiences gained in this period, made it necessary to convene the present Grand Assembly. New ammendments introduced into the Constitution removed all obstacles that could have been created on the path of the recent developments in the national reconciliation within a legal framework. They prepared considerable ground for the wide masses toward accord and reconciliation. With the approval of these ammendments, a good legal path has been prepared for adopting a series of measures which will deepen the national reconciliation policy, propogate democratic principles in sociopolitical life, and speed up talks and understanding with those who oppose the Republic of Afghanistan.

On the one hand, this Grand Assembly approved measures of the Republic of Afghanistan which widen the policy of national reconciliation and, on the other hand commissioned the state to continue, with courage, deepening national reconciliation by providing further suitable conditions for the wide participation of opposition parties, organizations, and personalities. From this Grand Assembly of the Afghan people, we once again declare that the present needs of our Afghan society

demand that all Afghans, wherever they live or on whichever side they may be, give up their differences, grudges, and accusations; widen the dimensions of accord for the sake of safeguarding high national interests of Afghanistan; cease war and bloodshed, and put an end to the sufferings and hardships of the people of Afghanistan.

In my speech I promised you—and through you all the compatriots—and once again I want to emphasize: I will devote all my energy, knowledge, and talent that peace is established in our suffering country [applause] so that the people of this homeland is not get killed at the hands of their compatriots and the home of no Afghan is destroyed. In accordance with the authority and duty that I have obtained from this high body representing the will of our people, I promise you that I will spare no effort in implementing the new proposals for a political solution. This solution is a very realistic and very just path for putting an end to war and maintaining peace in the country which takes into consideration the lawful and just interests of all contesting sides and all Afghan forces, parties, organizations, and personalities. Today, you approved a series of changes in the country's Constitution and made decisions that prepare the way for all our compatriots to engage in a large number of new measures and steps in the interest of maintaining national reconciliation and peace.

Esteemed delegates, I would like to say to respected Grand Assembly members and to dear compatriots that on the basis of the humane policy of national reconciliation and in consideration of the proposals put forward by you representatives of the people to the Grand Assembly, in the near future the Republic of Afghanistan will make decisions on pardoning or reducing the sentences of prisoners, [applause] on the basis of which those prisoners seriously ill or totally disabled, without consideration of the kind of crime of the length of sentence, will be released. Also those female prisoners, adolescent and those who are 60 or older, will be released. [applause] Under this presidential decree, which will be issued and enforced within a few coming days, a variety of categories of prisoners are to be pardoned and sentences reduced in the remaining terms of prisoners in other categories. [applause]

Respected Grand Assembly members, as president, I promise you that I hold the Constitution higher than any other thing, such a very high national document, and I will use all legal possibilities to implement its letter and spirit. [applause] In this I ask for assistance from Almighty God. I also hope for the sincere and active cooperation of all Afghan people.

In conclusion, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to every member for taking active and constructive participation in the work of the Grand Assembly. To the extent that the success of this assembly is the result of the cooperation and active responsible participation of all representatives of the people, to the same extent this success is owed to the authorized, just, and patriotic role of the acting-president of the Grand Assembly, the esteemed 'Abdul Rahim Hatif—his role is crystal clear. I would like, on behalf of myself and on your behalf, to express gratitude to esteemed 'Abdul Rahim Hatif for his wide patience and indefatigable work. [applause]

I congratulate you and all Afghan people on the successful conclusion of the Grand Assembly [applause] almighty and forgiving God give to us all the ability to successfully accomplish our tasks in implementing the decisions of the Grand Assembly. Success comes from God.

BAKHTAR Reports Grand Assembly Session

LD3005072290 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0433 GMT 30 May 90

[Text] Kabul, May 29, BAKHTAR—During the session of the Loya Jerga [Grand Assembly] which was held with the participation of Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) and 'Abdul Rahim Hatif, vice president and co-chairman of the Jerga, yesterday afternoon matters relating to the amendments of the Constitution of the country were discussed.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reported that during the session members of the Loya Jerga expressed their views and proposals on the amendments of the constitution free and democratic climate.

Amendments in the preface of the constitution, Articles 1st and 5th, 7th, 9th, 19th, 23rd, 27th, 56th, 75th, and 77 were made. Also articles 6th, 12th, and 26th were omitted.

According to another report, members of the Loya Jerga visited a photo exhibition organised by the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY (BIA) in the venue of the Jerga depicting progresses and developments achieved during the years of the national reconciliation policy and crimes committed by the extremists against the people and country.

During the session of the Jerga, copies of the pamphlet made out by the Ministry of Information and Culture on the history of the Loya Jerga was distributed to the audience.

Reports Conclusion of Assembly

LD3005074190 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0445 GMT 29 May 90

[Text] Kabul, May 29, BAKHTAR—Loya Jerga, Grand Assembly, of the people of Afghanistan which was opened in Kabul on May 28 to discuss the draft amendments of the country's constitution was successfully concluded today after the approval of the draft amendments in the Constitution and with the concluding speech of Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, reports BAKHTAR correspondent.

In today's session which was held with the participation of Najibullah, president of the Republic and acting chairman of Loya Jerga, Abdul Rahim Hatif, members of Loya Jerga studied and discussed in a free and democratic atmoshpere the draft amendments in the constitution and approved the amendments with due consideration given to the suggestions made during the meeting.

The messages of the participants of Loya Jerga to the opposition local armed commanders, to Afghan refugees in Pakistan, Iran and other countries, to leaders of Afghan groups abroad, to His Excellency Javier Perez de Cuellar, secretary general of the United Nations Organisation as well as to Organisation of Islamic Conference were also ratified unanimously by the Loya Jerga after debates and deliberations.

Then, Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, declared the conclusion of the meeting by delivering a speech and described the decisions made as valuable in deepening democracy in the socio-political life and expansion of the policy of national reconciliation.

President Najibullah called on all Afghans to put aside all their disputes, differences and vengeance and to broaden the grounds for coming to accord in order to safeguard the high interests of the people of Afghanistan and cessation of war and bloodshed and thus to put an end to the miseries of the people of Afghanistan.

Paper Reports Foiled 'Coup Attempt' in Kabul

BK2905114790 Lahore THE NATION in English 29 May 90 p 12

[Correspondent's report]

[Text] Peshawar—There was another 'coup attempt' against the government of Dr. Najibullah on Monday [28 May] according to reports reacting here from Kabul.

Reports said that Sarobi and Shakardara, areas in outskirts of Kabul came under heavy artillery and rocket fire by the Mujahidin immediately after the session of Loya Jerga [Grand Assembly] called by Dr. Najib to amend the Constitution.

The Kabul Radio went silent around 1 pm. After which irrelevant speeches of Dr. Najib were telecast.

The report said that Dr. Najib presented a number of new proposals before the Loya Jerga for the settlement of Afghanistan issue. The Loya Jerga which was constituted by Dr. Najib does not carry any representative character, according to the six-party alliance of Afghan Mujahidin.

A report said that the main purpose of the attack on Kabul was to disrupt the session of Loya Jerga, but it continued under heavy protection of the Army of Kabul regime.

The reports said that Ahmad Shah Masood, the legendary commander of the Mujahidin belonging to Shoorai Nazar organized the attack which continued for a few hours. The number of casualties could not be ascertained.

It is reported that efforts were being made by the Najib's regime to pave the way to call back former King Zahir Shah through the consent of Loya Jerga.

It may be recalled that an armed revolt to throw out Dr. Najib was staged in Kabul on March 6 by the then Defence Minister Gen. Shahnawaz Tanay, which failed.

Mujahidin Group Names U.S. in Assassination Plan

BK2905144290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1556 GMT 26 May 90

[Text] Islamabad, May 25 (AFP)—The fundamentalist Hezb-e Eslami faction of the Afghan mujahidin accused the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) on Saturday [26 May] of planning to assassinate its leader, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar. The group said it had obtained "documented plans by Washington to assassinate the top leadership" of its organization, according to the AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY (ANA), which it controls. "The lifting of a ban by U.S. President George Bush from the CIA to kill world leaders is in fact a green signal to the CIA to eliminate the top leadership of Hezb-e Eslami Afghanistan," ANA said, quoting "very confidential and reliable sources" in the party.

U.S. Embassy officials reached by telephone in Pakistan said the statements were "totally absurd and ridiculous."

The Hezb-e Eslami, one of seven Sunni parties based in Peshawar, keeps its distance from the others. It was associated in March with a failed military coup by a faction of the ruling communist party in Kabul.

ANA said the U.S. Government had unleashed a ruthless and baseless propaganda campaign against the leaders of the Hezb-e Eslami and that the CIA was trying to falsely implicate its leaders in drug trafficking and political assassinations. It also said the CIA through propaganda was trying to prepare the ground for violent attacks on the life of the Hezb-e high command.

Mr. Hekmatyar, 42, has long been considered the "protege" of the Pakistani Secret Service, which is in charge of distributing arms and aid to the Afghan resistance furnished by the United States.

The accusation comes as Washington, disappointed with the poor political and military performance of the mujahidin wants to negotiate a compromise with the Soviet Union on organizing elections ahead of total disengagement in the Afghan conflict.

Najibullah Sends Message on Teachers' Day

LD2505050590 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0430 GMT 24 May 90

[Text] Kabul May 23, BAKHTAR—The 24th of June [as received] which corresponds with the Teacher's Day, is marked throughout the country every year. This was said in the message of Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) read out by 'Abdul Hamid Mohtat, vice president of the RA in a function held here today.

In the long course of the Afghan history, the teachers who are torch bearers of knowledge and science, have always been admired by the Afghan society. I wholeheartedly congratulate Afghan teachers on this auspicious occasion, the message adds.

The Afghan ancient land was cradle of great civilisations. The Afghan history and the world history will always preserve feats of the Afghan scientists and scholars such as Avicenna, Aburaihan-ul-Beroni, Nasir Khosraw Qobadiani, Mia Faqirullah Jalalabadi, Habibullah Akhundzada, Adul Hai Habibi [names as received] and many others in their memories, the message adds.

It is worth mentioning here that due to some tangible reasons we have not retained our proper place beside the developed human societies again. But, what brings hope to us for future is the profound interest of our people to peace, knowledge and science. Our people considers knowledge and science as the only means for their moral and material revivals, the message goes on.

For the sound familiarisation of education and training of the Afghans, the RA considers ensurance of peace and tranquility as the only means for the [word indistinct] of the country. That is why that the RA Government has announced the national reconciliation policy in the country, it says.

Despite the prevailing critical situation in the RA the State of the RA has provided measures for the wellbeing and prosperity of the teachers. More privileges are to be provided to teachers in future.

The State of the RA cordially attempts to end war and ensure a nation-wide peace into the RA. It asks the knowledge torch bearers to take active part for the materialisation of this sacred aim, the message concludes.

Meets 'Vanguard' Teachers

LD2505051290 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0509 GMT 24 May 90

[Text] Kabul, May 23, BAKHTAR—Najibullah president of the Republic of Afghanistan, RA, today on the occasion of honouring the Teacher's Day, received a number of veteran and vanguard teachers of the different schools of Kabul and other provinces of the country in the reception hall of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of in Kabul. [sentence as received]

In this meeting which 'Abdul Hamid Mohtat vice-president of the RA, Khudaydad Basharmal, and 'Abdul Razaq Asmar [name as received], head of the Cultural Affairs of the Presidential Office of the country were also present, President Najibullah congratulated the auspicious Teachers' Day to all teachers of the country and spoke in brief on the peaceful measures of the State of RA, aimed at cessation of bloodshed and war, convocation of Loya Jerga [Grand National Assembly], introduction of amendments in the Constitution of the country, changes in the programme and principle line of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, political and economic pluralism in the country.

President Najibullah in his speech delivered in the meeting, called on whole scholars, teachers and lecturers of the country to forward their views and proposals for the enrichment of the peace proposal of the state of the RA, and made out standing [words indistinct] the RA.

Reciprocally a number of teachers representing others, pledged their all-out readiness for the implementation of the policy of the country in the educational sphere, and supported the peace plan of the leadership of the country.

Later on President Najibullah handed over medals and orders of the RA, state Orders of People, and orders of Presidential Honour of the RA and Letter of Merit to a number of veteran teachers of the country.

Likewise President Najibullah gifted 10 milion Afghanis to teachers aid account.

Regime Forces Repel Offensive in Khowst District

LD2605202990 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 26 May 90

[Text] The BAKHTAR military section reports that units and contingents of the Armed Forces based in Khowst District today repulsed an offensive of joint enemy forces. Extremist groups backed by heavy arms fire mounted an offensive from the directions of Gorboz, Tanai, and Lakan. As a result, four civilians, including two children, were martyred and 15 others were injured. The report adds that Armed Forces units and contingents based in the district, with the all-out coordination of the local people, quickly repulsed the extremists' offensive and inflicted heavy losses on them.

As a consequence of the Armed Forces strikes, 380 warmonger extremists have been ousted from the combat line and dozens of light and heavy weapons of the enemy have been destroyed. Seven members of the Armed Forces were martyred in the operation.

Intense Fighting on Kabul-Jalalabad Highway

BK2705141690 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 27 May 90

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan speak of intense fighting between mujahidin and Kabul regime forces in

various parts of the country. In an attack on Jalalabad, mujahidin killed 18 militiamen and officers of the Kabul regime and damaged a tank and a [word indistinct] vehicle. In another attack on Jalalabad cantonment and Kabul-Jalalabad Highway, mujahidin damaged nine vehicles and two tanks of the enemy.

India

Gujral Speaks of International Support on Kashmir

BK3005092190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 30 May 90

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, said in the Rajya Sabha today that most of the Arab countries, which the Pakistan prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, visited recently have appreciated India's point of view on the Kashmir issue. He said most of these countries have advised her to defuse the situation and to solve the problem through bilateral negotiations under the Simla agreement.

Replying to questions, the minister said the government has been trying to convince the member countries of the Islamic Conference that Kashmir is not an issue involving religion. He said we feel satisfied that our position is by and large being appreciated by most of the countries of the world.

The minister informed the members that the United States has made it clear that it does not want to mediate or intervene in the matter. During the recent visit of the U.S. deputy national security adviser, Mr. Robert Gates, we have also reiterated our opposition to the supply of American arms to Pakistan.

Singh Briefs Brandt on Pakistani Military Moves

BK2905161190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 May 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh, has apprised the former West German chancellor, Mr. Willy Brandt, of hectic military activity on the Pakistani side. The prime minister is reported to have referred to the laying of mines by Pakistan, setting up of blood banks, cancellation of leaves of Army personnel, and inflammatory speeches made by the Pakistani leaders.

An official spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi today that Mr. Singh informed Mr. Brandt that the tension at the Indo-Pak border would be automatically de-escalated if Pakistan stops sponsoring subversion and terrorism in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir. He, however, regretted that Pakistan was not showing any evidence of peaceful intentions.

Addressing a news conference, Mr. Willy Brandt expressed the hope that India and Pakistan will move in the direction of bilateral talks to solve the Kashmir issue.

Bhutto's Visit to Muslim Countries Criticized

BK2605152390 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 26 May 90

[Raj Gill commentary: "The Nemesis"]

[Text] The Pakistan prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, set out on 15 May to forge an Islamic states solidarity, politically and militarily, to back her on the Kashmir issue, which was to be her tour de force ever since she assumed the prime minister's office. But it turned out to be a mere Don Quixotic fantasy, a will-o'-the-wisp. She was returned home foot weary and dispirited and suddenly she finds that a mutual dialogue is more cherishable than speaking from a position of strength.

Ms. Bhutto's whistle-stop tour of the eight Asian and north African Islamic states was a nonstarter right from the beginning. She should have known that religious fraternity in the modern times takes second place to political economic ties, that crusade is an obsolete concept, and that the war-weary world was for peace and friendship and not for a trial of strength. She should have taken the cue and much before the start of her mission for gathering allies in the name of religion, she was advised by the superpowers to settle the Kashmir issue by bilateral dialogue with India under the spirit of the 1972 Simla accord. Moscow and Washington had made it amply clear that they were more in agreement with India than Pakistan and that they do not favor either internationalization of the Kashmir issue or war between the two countries. The two had also expressed strongly their distaste to Pakistan's demand on holding a plebiscite in Kashmir. Even the special envoy of U.S. President George Bush, Mr. Robert Gates, and his team who were on a visit to India and Pakistan for a factual on-the-ground appraisal of the Kashmir issue, have returned home more impressed with India's case and with the admission from the Pakistani leaders that 30 terrorist training camps have been closed in Pakistan, thus exploding the myth that Pakistan was not directly involved in the activities in Kashmir.

The response that Ms. Bhutto elicited from the countries she visited gives one the impression that the niceties were diplomatic in nature. Otherwise, the hosts with the exception of Iran and to a lesser extent Turkey gave the impression that her visit was rather an imposition. The very insipidness of the welcome they accorded Ms. Bhutto and virtually total noncommitment on the value of the issue demonstrated to the world that Pakistan had no leg to stand on regarding the Kashmir issue. Their reluctance to back Pakistan's plebiscite demand and to promise military support in the eventuality of a war was a hint enough for Ms. Bhutto not to think in terms of any wild venture.

Egypt told that it would not take sides and that it was willing to help mediate, if the two countries asked for it. Jordan's stress on its good relations with India must have been another blow to her. Syria simply asked her to reduce tension between the two countries. North Yemen

just expressed its concern on the developments in Kashmir. Libya and Tunisia opted for neutrality. Even Saudi Arabia refrained from offering military assistance to Pakistan. None made a firm and clear commitment either to back Pakistan's claim on Kashmir or to offer military assistance. It must be a great frustration to Prime Minister Bhutto on top of her unsuccessful mission that 50 eminent personalities of her own country, including the National Assembly speaker, Mr. Mairaj Khalid, judges, foreign servicemen, army brass, and editors have come out in a joint statement against hostilities and for mutual talks.

A further blow to her morale was from the president of the London unit of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation force, who are currently perpetuating terror in the valley, Mr. Shabir Chowdhury, giving the lie to Ms. Bhutto that Kashmiri Muslims were all for Pakistan. If Prime Minister Bhutto does not take the hint even now she cannot tide over her domestic problems by whipping up the Kashmir issue. And if she persists to pursue the dream of a crusade for self survival, then she is in for a shock, because it is going to prove to be her own nemesis.

New Kashmir Governor on Restoring 'Normalcy'

BK2605053490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1849 GMT 25 May 90

[Text] New Delhi, May 25 (AFP)—India's new Kashmir governor, Girish Chandra Saxena, Friday [25 May] said he would seek people's cooperation to restore peace in the region where Moslems are violently campaigning against New Delhi's rule. The official said his first step would be to allow the Kashmiris to fully exercise their constitutional rights, adding that his new assignment needed more than just a policeman's approach, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported.

PTI's television unit interviewed the 63-year-old former Indian spymaster in New Delhi just after President Ramaswamy Venkataraman named him the successor to Jag Mohan, who quit the same day after facing "genocide" charges from several quarters. Mr. Saxena, who is also Prime Minister Viswanath Pratap Singh's security advisor on Jammu and Kashmir affairs, till last year was the chief of India's powerful external intelligence service, the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW).

"There is nothing in wrong in being a policeman ... but this job needs a lot more than an absolute professional approach of a policeman," PTI quoted the new governor as saying. "What needs to be done (in Kashmir) is to contain the situation and bring about normalcy, not only in the law and order, but also in economic and development fields. But, the administrative measures should have the benefit of some backing of political efforts," he said.

Mr. Saxena said that his role as New Delhi's main administrator in Kashmir would go together with the government's aim of attempting to politically settle the Moslem campaign for the northern state's secession from India. "There was always the twin line of action functioning," Mr. Saxena said, referring to the appointment in March of George Fernandes, India's railway minister, as New Delhi's political troubleshooter in Kashmir.

"Everyone has his own style and everyone tries to do his best the way he sees it," the ex-RAW chief said when asked if his approach to the Moslem campaign would be based on the hard line of his predecessor Mr. Jag Mohan. He refused to comment on the allegations levelled against the controversial former governor, an equally senior bureaucrat. Moslem leaders, parliamentarians and newspapers have blamed Mr. Jag Mohan for a massacre of 100 people in police gunfire Monday [21 May] in Srinagar city during a march to mourn the same day's slaying of Kashmir Moslem high priest Mirwaiz Maulvi Farooq. They have also charged him with arresting some 10,000 Kashmiris and imposing a marathon curfew after he became governor January 19.

Appeals to Youths for Peace

BK2705052690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 27 May 90

[Text] The new Jammu and Kashmir governor, Mr. Girish Chandra Saxena, has said that political and administrative measures will continue to tackle the present situation in the state. Talking to newsmen soon after the swearing-in ceremony in Srinagar yesterday, he said that his top priority will be to see that no innocent person is harmed. The governor appealed to the youth not to be misled by forces from across the border, but contribute toward restoration of normalcy in the valley.

Former Kashmir Governor Nominated to Rajya Sabha

BK2905094090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 29 May 90

[Text] The former governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Mr. Jag Mohan, today took oath as member of the Rajya Sabha. Before Mr. Jag Mohan took oath, the Congress-I staged a walkout. The leader of the opposition, Mr. Shiv Shankar, described the nomination as against political norms and said this step was to appease the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP].

After Mr. Jag Mohan took oath, the BJP leader, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, criticized the Congress-I walkout and said it amounted to discourtesy to the new member.

Iran

Majles Speaker Karrubi Gives News Conference

LD2905131890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 May 90

[Text] Mr. Karrubi, the Majles speaker, answered questions posed to him by domestic and foreign reporters, on the trend of the country's foreign policy; the contents of the letters exchanged between the Islamic Republic of

Iran and Iraq, and the outcome of those letters; the trend of the peace talks; the Saudi regime's obstructionism in the dispatch of Iranian pilgrims to Mecca; the issue of Lebanon; negotiations with Britain; the position of the liberals vis-a-vis the country's political issues; and the third-term activities of the Majles, in the course of a news conference, before noon today.

The Majles speaker began the news conference by remarking on the status of the Majles. He said: In the course of the past 10 years, the Majles has carried out its obligations and employed its rights and authority in the best possible manner.

Regarding Iraq's letters to Iran, and Iran's response to those letters, Mr Karrubi said: Iran has received two letters from the Iraqi president, one of which has received a reply; the second will soon be replied to as well. He added: On the whole, these letters have called for a comprehensive peace, and if the other side displays good will, then it is possible that negotiations may take place between the two countrys' presidents. Mr. Karrubi reiterated: We believe that these negotiations should be carried out within the framweork of Resolution 598.

In reply to a question posed by a foreign reporter on the crimes by the occupying Jerusalem regime perpetrated against the Palestinian and Lebanese Muslims, he said: The West does not consider the Zionist oppression of the Palestinians terrorism, but if a nation defends its rights, then it is branded a terrorist. The Majles speaker added: I believe that Hezbollah cells should be formed so as to assist the Palestian people; this is not a terrorist action.

To another question, Mr. Karrubi replied: The stance adopted by the liberals has been totally clear-cut from the onset of the revolution, and their stances and actions are not acceptable to the people and the revolution.

Stressing the Majles' adherence to the path of the imam and the velayat-e faqih [rule of the supreme jurisconsult] with regard to the principle projects of the Majles drawn up to resolve the people's problems, he said: The Majles is totally prepared to study projects and bills on the principle issues in the country; studying the project on the campaign against the economic terrorists, will soon be debated in the Majles.

In reply to a question on the publication of the news of the dispatch of a British parliamentary delegation to Iran, the Majles speaker said: My inforamtion is limited to what was published in the press, but what is important is the promulgation of a clear stance by the British Parliament.

To another question on the British Government's interest in reestablishing relations with the Islamic Republic, he said: The British Government must comply with the views of the Majles on Salman Rushdie, but unfortunately we are still witnessing the British Government's aggressive encounter with that issue, and recently that country's court has issued a ban on proceeding with Salman Rushdie's file.

With regard to the trend of the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic after the demise of the imam—may his dust be sanctified—Mr. Kurrubi said: What is evident is that our foreign policy is based on and stands within the framework of those same lines that our late Imam set down. We continue to be opposed to direct negotiations with the U.S., and we are in the process of negotiating with that country only in the Hague tribunal. And as regards Saudi Arabia [Arabestan], both during the times when the imam was alive and since his demise, after the bloody Mecca tragedy, direct talks and talks with mediation were carried out. But the obstinacy of hostile and unfriendly confrontation on the part of the Hejaz [Saudi] government has led to the non-departure of Iranian pilgrims to the hajj.

In connection with the reason for the breakdown of talks between Iran and Saudi Arabia, Mr. Karrubi said: The negotiations that were being conducted in a direct or indirect form with Saudi Arabia broke down due to Arabia's insistence in decreasing the quota Iranian pilgrims and preventing the disavowal of the infidels march; at present no talks of any kind are being conducted with Arabia.

The speaker of the Majles, in conclusion, emphasized the role of the Basij [mobilization force] and said: The role and position of the Basiji forces were devised by our late imam; the Basij is the preserver and guardian of the Islamic Revolution and we will continuously move toward a stronger reaffirmation of that great force.

AFP Notes Karrubi Comments on Hostages

NC2905143090 Paris AFP in English 1413 GMT 29 May 90

[Excerpt] Tehran, May 29 (AFP) - Iran has called for a meeting of Iranian and Iraqi representatives ahead of a proposed summit between the presidents of the two countries, parliamentary speaker Mehdi Karrubi disclosed here Tuesday [29 May]. Mr. Karrubi told a press conference that the Iranian proposal was in response to two letters from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn calling for a final settlement to the Iran-Iraq conflict. Mr. Husayn also suggested an Iran-Iraq summit, according to Mr. Karrubi.

"Iran has proposed that a meeting should take place between representatives of the two countries and this meeting has not really taken place yet," he said, adding that if Iraq "shows goodwill, a summit meeting is possible."

But he stressed that "peace talks should continue and progress within the framework of (United Nations) Resolution 598." The resolution arranged a cease-fire in the Gulf war in August 1988. But the two sides, despite U.N.-sponsored negotiations, have failed to reach agreement on how to implement a formal peace treaty.

On the hostages question, Mr. Karrubi said Iran was deeply committed to the release of all captives in Lebanon, "regardless of their origin." [passage omitted]

U.S. Non-Reply on Hostage Issue Causes 'Dismay'

LD2905144890 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 0230 GMT 29 May 90

[Text] The regime's president, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, once again expressed his dismay about the United States not giving an appropriate goodwill reply to the compromising moves by the Islamic Republic's Foreign Ministry in connection with its direct involvement in the release of two Western hostages.

Speaking yesterday at a gathering of Lebanese guests, who are in Tehran in order to take part in ceremonies marking the anniversary of Khomeyni's demise [Dargozasht], he pointed to the release of two American hostages, and said: Today arrogance must defend itself and tell world public opinion why it will not release the Lebanese hostages.

It is said that despite the decline in apparent efforts aimed at release of the Western hostages, negotiations behind the scenes are still in progress aimed at resolving this issue. In that connection, during the last few days, a few leaders of Lebanese hostage-takers—including Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli and Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah—have met and conferred with the regime's leaders.

Iran, UK Increase Efforts To Solve Differences

LD2905145490 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 0230 GMT 29 May 90

[Text] In the wake of recent meeting between Islamic Republic officials and European Economic Community [EEC] representatives in the Irish capital, Dublin, efforts aimed at resolving differences between the Islamic Republic and England have increased. In that regard, one of the English Labor Party's members of the House of Commons has talked about forwarding a bill to the parliament in connection with criminalizing acts which give rise to people's religious grudge in [word indistinct].

Political observers consider that move as another step aimed at resolving the Salman Rushdie affair. Previously, also, a parliamentary deputy from the Conservative Party had asked for a visit to Tehran by a parliamentary team of delegation. Furthermore, it has been said that the English Government might dispatch its former ambassador in Tehran, Anthony Parsons, as an intermediary.

Report on 6 May Majles Session Addresses

PM2905160390 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 7 May 90 p 5

[Report "from RESALAT'S legal and parliamentary correspondent"]

[Text] The open session of the Majles was held yesterday. During this session, following several pre-agenda speeches—which were printed in yesterday's newspaper—the plan to have priority discussions on the price of *water for agricultural use* was put to the vote and its priority was approved.

The plan says: From the time this law is passed, the amount received from farmers for water in the provinces will be according to the rates as they were in 1986. There will be no increases to this rate in agricultural areas until 1996.

The second item on the agenda was continued discussion on the report by the health and welfare commission with regard to a military exemption for dental hygenists, dentists, regional health officers, and health technicians working to fight disease, which was passed after some amendments.

Item: In order to make health care more available to the public throughout the country and to give health services and primary medical facilities to small towns and villages, from the date that this law is passed all dental hygenists, dentists, health technicians, and those who fight disease will be exempt from national military service, provided that they pass their basic military training and that they perform guaranteed service of at least five years in health centers in towns and villages.

Footnote 1—The Ministry of Health and Health Education has the duty to introduce to the nearest military recruitment office, for a clarification of their national service position, those people to whom this law applies if they refuse to complete their required time in service or if, for one reason or another, they are expelled from their job during their required service time with the Ministry of Health and Health Education.

Footnote 2—Those to whom this law applies, who are at present performing their national military service, will be allowed to leave immediately following their basic military training. The required time for military service for these persons and those who have given guarantees, who have already finished their national service, will be counted as part of their five-year guarantee [sentence as published].

Footnote 3—This law is to be implemented from the time that it is passed.

The third item on the Majles agenda was the bill to establish a limited company to expand production of sugar cane and related industries. The government had handed this bill to the Majles as an urgent matter, but the deputies agreed that it should be regarded as priority, not urgent.

The next item on the agenda was a law to support the Palestinian revolution, which was given to the Majles as an urgent matter. The full text of the bill is as follows:

"The respected speaker of the Islamic Majles:

"Following the treasonous act of the two houses of the U.S. Congress with regard to the approval of Jerusalem as the so-called capital of the Zionist regime; following

the wicked act of moving Jews to the occupied territories with the mediation of some treasonous regional regimes; and following the respected leader's approval for serious support for the holy Palestinian revolution, we submit the following bill to the Majles as a matter of urgency:

"Item 1—The speaker of the Majles has the duty to hold a conference as soon as possible with members of parliament from Islamic countries. The conference is to detail the aggressors' huge plots against the innocent Palestinian people and to explore all practical ways to combat the regime occupying Jerusalem and to expose those who support that occupying regime.

"Item 2—The government of the Islamic Republic of Iran invites other Islamic governments to collect aid from the Muslim and freedom-loving peoples of the world to organize an international fund to support Jerusalem.

"Item 3—The Martyrs Foundation of the Islamic Republic of Iran has the duty to support the respected families of the martyrs in occupied territories as they support the families of martyrs in Islamic Iran."

Mr. Bahonar, deputy from Tehran, explained the urgency of this bill and said: The respected deputies must pay attention to the fact that, as you well know, we have unfortunately had many negative points throughout the world recently through plots by the world aggressors with regard to the issue of Palestine. This occurs at a time when the innocent people of Palestine have for the past 30 months faced, empty-handed, a barrage of bullets and attacks from Zionist mercenaries in the streets and in their own homes. The respected leader brought up the subject of Palestine and Jerusalem on 'Id al-Fitr during the prayer sermons, even though Jerusalem Day had already passed. Yet he mentioned it as a main axis in our foreign policy. We must keep in mind the superpowers' coordination in moving Jews from the Soviet Union to occupied Palestine, on the one hand, and the coordination among some Arab countries in the region who claim to be fighting the Zionist regime, on the other. We also see that the political plots against the innocent Palestinian people increase daily. This occurs at a time when, in terms of ideology and history, we do not recognize a country called Israel and we think it should not exist and that it has to be destroyed.

We regard the issue of confronting Zionism and fighting the occupiers of Jerusalem, until the destruction of the occupying Israeli regime, as the most important priority in our foreign policy. The framework of beliefs of our wise Imam, who said that Israel has to be destroyed, must be placed within our foreign policy. Unfortunately the world of propaganda wants to silence the cries of innocence coming from the Palestinian people, who are facing Zionist bullets in their homes and streets every day. They create a side issue every day so that this [main] issue is not discussed. If there is to be practical help for this movement, to make this voice of innocence known to the freedom-loving peoples of the world, this is up to none other than the Islamic Republic of Iran. The respected leader has given us a general line to follow and, based on this, we have presented this matter of urgency to the Majles, which must produce a series of practical plans.

Dr. 'Abbas Sheybani spoke against giving the bill urgency. He said: The respected deputies know that, if a plan is to be discussed urgently, it has to be announced over the open microphones of the Majles. We all accept the issue of Palestine and the fact that Israel is the occupier. Palestine belongs to the Palestinians and we have no dispute with that, and we also have to give help whenever we can. But there are also side issues which I feel should not be brought out into the open arena of the Majles. This should be looked into carefully by the commission. If you take one step, they will take 10 steps against you and stop you, and they will create so many barriers that you will not be able to get help to the person it is intended for. I feel that this bill should go to the commission as a priority matter so that all its details can be reviewed carefully.

Mr. Shafe'i, deputy from Marand, spoke in favor of the plan's urgency. He said: Without a doubt all the gentlemen agree as to the importance of regarding Israel as the country's main and number one enemy. It was the Imam who said that Israel had to be destroyed. The reasons why this plan has been put forth as a matter of urgency are the actions that the Zionist enemy is undertaking, both inside occupied Palestine and also abroad. On the inside we see a good movement and anti-Israeli actions from the revolutionaries. On the part of Israel we witness repression, assassinations, and the killing of the heroic Palestinian people. On the other hand, outside occupied Palestine we see the movement of Jews from the Soviet Union and some other countries such as African nations, which continues at full force and is gaining momentum. Israel and the world-engulfing United States want to pull as many Jews into occupied Palestine as possible, so as to upset the balance that exists between the Muslim and Zionist population in that country. In reality they want to create a change in the population, to make the Zionists control the Muslims in towns and villages in terms of population numbers. So the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic revolution, whose leader brought us the strategy of Israel's destruction, who recognized Israel as our most basic enemy, has the duty to show serious reaction in this regard.

Then the urgency of the bill was put to the vote and was passed by a large majority.

The fifth item on the agenda of yesterday's Majles session was the first meeting of the agriculture and welfare commission for villages with regard to the bill dealing with the charter of the Martyr Beheshti Agro-Industrial Company Inc. Following a report from the commission's reporter, this was put to the vote and was passed.

The next item was a report of the first meeting of the agriculture commission with regard to the charter of the Martyr Raja'i Agro-Industrial company which was put to the vote and was passed.

The last item on the agenda of yesterday's open session was a report on councils and their internal affairs with regard to the draft designed to amend some parts of the law dealing with the formation of Islamic Councils, which was passed 22 November 1982, and the law amending the laws of the Councils and their elections passed on 20 July 1986. Four items of this bill were passed by the deputies.

The items that were passed are as follows:

Item 1—Clauses 3 and 13 of Article 19 will be amended as follows, and Clause 18 will be removed. (Clause 3) There must be close supervision over the administration of the affairs of the electoral districts and the Councils' decisions and plans must be carried out well. (Clause 13) Each Council can convey to the local population its decisions concerning important issues and what concerns the general public, provided that they think this is the proper course of action.

Item 2—The following footnote will be added to Article 31: (Footnote: Towns that have fewer than seven districts will not have an Islamic Council.)

Item 3—Footnote 1—The local Islamic Council will have eight members.

Item 4—The first clause of Article 35 will be amended as follows, and two more clauses numbered 7 and 8 will be added to it.

If the predicted revenues are not enough, the town council can impose tax with the approval of the Interior Ministry once orders are received from the leader. This has to match the local economic capabilities and the services rendered. A mayor is to be elected for four years and introduced to the minister of interior so that proper decrees can be issued. Footnote 1—Choosing a mayor for a second term in office is allowed for one additional term only.

Footnote 2—The removal of the mayor will be done in accordance with details of Article 3 of the municipality laws by the town council. For the period between the removal of one mayor and the choosing of another, the deputy mayor will be responsible for municipal affairs. 8) Removal and election of a mayor for Tehran and the centers of each province will be in accordance with recommendations of the town councils and the approval of the minister of interior.

At the conclusion of yesterday's open session of the Majles a plan with 15 signatures was handed in—a legal draft to amend parts of the law governing elections for the Majles which was passed on 10 March 1984 and subsequent additions.

The Majles will have its next open session tomorrow morning.

At yesterday's open session Mr. Ghaffar Esma'illi', deputy from Hashtrud, was the last pre-agenda speaker. He commented on the Prophet-like statement by the imam on the anniversary of Teacher's Day, which is close to the first anniversary of the imam's death. He said: Our great leader said: Damn the people who take orders from the Americans. Then our imam had explained a Koranic verse to us. The leadership is the axis for unity and is the results of achieving belief in God. We welcome with our hearts and minds the message that united Islamic societies and Iran with the strong links of a chain that were the thoughts of our great imam, to give us hope, to make us remember our political, social, and cultural values; the message that clarified for us the honorable place for our Islamic Republic's beliefs, morals and politics. We ask God to help us achieve unity with that holy message so that it may fill the air with brotherly feelings.

He added: We must move in such a way as to please the spirit of our late leader, because our society's happiness depends on this. Anyone writing or speaking anything other that this will perish in the vile atmosphere of insults. Any remarks, under any circumstance or excuse, will not please the ummah and will result in the dissatisfaction of the imam and the leader.

The speaker continued his statement by commenting on the importance of the remarks made by the respected leader of the revolution. He said: I suggest to the respected speaker of the Majles and to the dear deputies that we welcome in a proper and appropriate way the message that has arisen from the teachings of the great teacher of the revolution, His Excellency Ruhollah, and show allegiance to the leader once again. I thank the teaching circles, university people, teachers, theological centers, schools, the Hizballah ummah, and the Muslims of the world, and I ask that they place this Charter of the Revolution at the helm of all their actions and all their slogans, because world reaction to it would most definitely disgrace the world aggressors and would bring hope to the oppressed.

The speaker then commented on the fact that Teacher's Day fell on the same day the great leader of the revolution delivered his fate-determining message. He added: I congratulate the dear teachers because this message was delivered on Teacher's Day. I ask the officials to encourage teachers to the best of their ability. It is expected of all those involved with education, especially the Ministry of Education, the literacy corps, teachers, professors, clerics, and society to undertake the urgent plans of the respected president. The officials should regard the Five-Year Plan as a movement involving values. They should aim to realize its goals and they should hold hands in friendship—which is the hope of our revolutionary society.

He supported the plans aimed at confronting economic criminals and added: I support the revolutionary stance taken by the respected speaker of the Majles and the respected deputies with regard to confronting economic criminals. I ask that with their firm vote they prepare the groundwork for appropriate action. Without a doubt this calls for firm action by the judicial authorities.

He commented on judicial difficulties and the cruelty and bullying of feudal lords over the tenant farmers in his constituency and added: It has been brought to the attention of the respected head of the judiciary in private meetings and also on paper how the deprived areas of Hashtrud and Chariha, like most other areas of the country, are fed up with the cruelty shown by feudal lords. The execution of some of the orders handed out by the courts has damaged the security of the area by bringing in the feudal lords, which leaves the farmers no alternative but to migrate to the cities. The area is waiting for an incident which calls for action before something can happen.

Despite the orders of the respected head of the judiciary with regard to a freeze on all court orders until further notice, we see a group of villagers going to jail every day.

He then talked about the martyrdom of a group of people at the hands of the feudal lords and said: The landlords took some martyrs from us at the beginning of the revolution, including martyrs 'Ali-abadi and Najafzadeh. Now they have come back and, with the return of famous landlords such as Sowlati, Sha'bani, Sarkubi and others, there will be no job security for the villagers. This in turn will increase the numbers of street vendors and shack-dwellers in Tehran. It will take from officials the opportunity to make accurate plans. The martyr-rearing peoples of our villages, who are familiar with the revolution's culture and who support it, will no longer tolerate this cruelty. This of course will have an unpleasant consequence. So I ask the judiciary to do something about this problem before it is too late.

The people's deputy from Hashtrud concluded: I would finally like to thank the president for his special attention and wish him success. I thank the minister of post and telegraph for establishing the Hashtrud telephone line. I also want to thank the reconstructon crusade of the province, police, communications, finance, IRGC [Islamic Revolution Guard Corps], communications, revolution committees, martyrs foundation, and the region's banks.

At yesterday's open session, Mr. Ezzat-ollah Damadi, deputy from Sari, was the first pre-agenda speaker. He started his speech by sending his greetings to the spirit of the Imam and to the respected leader.

The people's depyuty from Sari said: I and the people of my district, who are always present on the scene, regard as a heavenly gift the affection, attention and fatherly advice of the leader on all the current issues of our Islamic homeland; we are grateful for this and we give our thanks. I take this opportunity to announce our support once again and to say that we agree with all his ideas, which are for the common good. I declare my fidelity to him for all time, because following the ideals, thoughts, and path of the imam is possible only by obeying the leader.

He continued by mentioning the anniversary of the martyrdom of the great Islamic thinker and philospher, martyr Motahhari, and the national week for teachers, those makers of the future who continue the path of the Prophet.

Mr. Damadi added: Thank God, the priority to confront economic criminals, to lower inflation, and to punish economic terrorists has been approved by the Majles. Its second round of discussions will soon be passed and handed to the government. I announce my support for the beautiful and sympathetic speech given by the speaker of the Majles delivered on 5 April. I thank the judiciary for their steadfastness. By speeding up the court cases, the effects of crimes have been lessened. I hope that this steadfastness will last forever and will hold for all cases.

He continued: The time is one of reconstruction in the country. We must face reality. Work must be done in such a way as to open the door to lawful investments. I assure all the people that the government and the Majles are aware of the period of reconstruction. But they have it in mind to prepare the groundwork for all legitimate work by good people and to prevent illegitimate work. The law must also go to work in this area. Today we must help the government of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani. We must also thwart the plans that encourage inflation or raise prices, even though we may be tempted to feel sorry.

God forbid we should introduce a program that would go against the Five-Year Plan. That way, instead of helping the government, we would be causing obstacles for it. The passing of a law must be such as not to cause inflation or tension in society. We all know that economic issues are tied very closely to society so that, if they are not planned properly, things can get worse just be someone's feeling sorry, and then it cannot be helped. The speaker added: The economic terrorists who threaten the revolution, who smile at us in a very meaningful way, want to loot society. They want to move their wealth toward commerce, to make profits worth millions of rials. They are so busy winning over friends that it appears as if they are the real owners of this revolution.

He warned the judiciary to act in a steadfast way so as to punish and confiscate the wealth of anyone in any post with any title who has become wealthy through wrongdoing, selling at high prices, hoarding, monopolizing certain goods, causing disruption in government-owned distribution centers, cooperatives or the private sector, who have formed companies made up of two or three people who have made millions in profits and have

emptied the pockets of the people. These should be identified to the Majles so that the people who know the economic terrorists are.

I do not understand why the Tehran municipality acts on its own and takes from the people large sum of money to help itself, without any reason. I do not know what this is for or what law it is based on.

Can anyone make any decision they want? Even worse than that is the approval of the fees that have to be paid for new building permission, which was increased by an outrageous amount overnight throughout the country. I do not know on what economic calculation this has been based. As a result the price of apartments in Tehran has gone up by 100,000 rials per square meter and in the provinces by 50,000 rials, and rent has doubled.

This increases the number of unemployed. Even though the mayor of Tehran is not responsible, this is the result that we see. I regard the approval of the fees for new building permits and such similar acts of helping oneself, that are not based on any calculation, as moves against the people and the oppressed of society and against government policy. I regard them as harmful to our citizens. I ask the respected president and the judiciary to stop this type of hardship on the people so as not to create this type of dissatisfaction.

Mr. Damadi concluded his speech by drawing the government's attention to several points. He said: Today general personal insurance, retirement insurance, unemployment insurance, farmers', women's and workers' insurance, and a pay rise for civil servants are among the duties of the government. It is true that the aid committee has some of these in its purview, but this is inadequate. All people who cannot make ends meet must be given financial and spiritual help. Providing housing, health and education for our people is expected, and not to pay attention to these things is unforgivable.

He thanked all those involved in sports, sportsmen and fans throughout the country, especially in the area of Mazandaran, especially Asgari Mohammadiyan and Majid Torkan who have won medals taking international titles, bringing honor to the country, raising the proud flag of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He asked sports' officials to pay more attention to sports, to create sports' facilities and look into the lives of sportsmen, and to look after their jobs.

He added: When we look at the ordinary jails, we see that 70 percent of the prisoners are in there because of general economic and cultural poverty. I ask the head of the judiciary to reconsider this issue. I warn the Ministry of Energy not to raise water prices for agricultural use. What facilities have you given the farmers to allow you to raise their water prices now?

Nationwide Conference of Friday Imams Continues

President Addresses Gathering

LD2905133590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 May 90

[Text] The nationwide Friday imams' gathering continued its second day of work with speeches delivered by Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president and head of the judicial branch.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani attended this morning, the nationwide gathering of the Friday imams, and while describing the present situation of the country underlined the need for Friday imams and the clergy to try and encourage people to participate fully in the reconstruction of the country. Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, while expressing his condolences on the occasion of the anniversary of the heart-rending demise of Iman Khomeyni—God's mercy be upon him—termed the loss of that great personality as very difficult to bear, and said that this loss cannot be compensated for in any way, save to see that the lofty desires and requests of the imam exist in society; because the works of the Imam means that he himself is among us.

The president considered that the election of his eminence, Ayatollah Khamene'i, as the leader of the Islamic Revolution was a historic occasion, and added: With this decision taken by the Assembly of Experts, people were reassured, and the propoganda wave of the enemies died down. The president, elsewhere in his speech, reminded that: The enemies of Islam and the Islamic Revolution try to block, in every way possible, the reconstruction of our country; and we must confront these conspiracies. The president noted: The aim of our enemies is to defeat the programs and plans of the Islamic Republic system, drawn up to solve people's problems, so as to demonstrate that Islam is powerless. But the clergy, who are the true guardians of Islam, should persuade people to participate all the more in the arena of the revolution and thus foil these conspiracies.

In continuation, the president emphasized the need for unity among the people in the reconstruction of the country, and said: As it has been proved that Islam is capable of reconstruction in our present epoch, the goals and conspiracies of the enemies of Islam and the Islamic Revolution will be neutralized. In order to fulfil this important task, there is a need for all of us to get more involved, and endeavor more than ever to eliminate problems.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani noted also the need for making provisions for people's livelihood, as befits the times, and efforts directed at reconstruction and moving toward production, so as to achieve independence for the country; while describing the timetable of programs of the government concerning the elimination of difficulties, he said: Benefitting from the existing resources of the country is the most effective factor in reaching

independence and success in removing problems and ensuring economic prosperity for the country.

Pointing to the emphasis placed by the officials of the country on the preservation of the aspirations and principles of the revolution and independence, he recounted the short and long-term projects of the government in the Five-Year Plan of the country in the fields of oil, petrochemicals, dams, and light and heavy industries, and added: Aiming at production is the key to solving problems; fortunately we have enough foreign exchange, and by making use of sympathetic Iranian experts, along with benefitting from the most advanced technologies in the world, we will increase production. Referring to the sale of competitive rates of foreign exchange by the government, and its impact on lowering the price of aluminum, steel, and some foodstuff products of the country, he said: With the sale of a competitive rate of exchange, we intend to remove liquidity [naqdinegi], which is the great nuisance for society, and by increasing the production of factories, we intend to succeed in controlling inflation. Currently, most of the plants have begun effective moves to reach a reasonable production capacity.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in concluding his remarks delivered to the sixth nationwide Friday imams' gathering, hoped that the gathering would be successful.

Yazdi Addresses Group

LD2905151190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 May 90

[Text] Mr. Yazdi, the head of judicial power, was another speaker at this morning's sixth nationwide Friday imams' gathering. He remarked on the importance of the Friday prayers, saying: The Friday prayers gathering is one of the emblems and blessings of the Islamic Revolution, and in the wake of the victory of the revolution, this divine and Islamic call was performed following the order and fatwa issued by His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, the great leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Remarking on the recent remarks delivered by the esteemed leader on the special status of the Friday imams in the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran, he said: The position of the Friday imam is an Islamic one, conferred on them by the holder of the position of the velayat-e faqih [vice-regency of the supreme jurisconsult], and it enjoys special prereogatives in relation to the other governmental posts; the link between that position and the velayat-e faqih should always be maintained.

Then the head of the judiciary stressed the necessity of the Friday imams' alacrity in the face of propaganda plots and ploys waged against the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and said: By disclosing the intentions of the enemies, the Friday imams should thwart their poisonous propaganda, as friends and foes pay special attention to the Friday prayers sermons.

In conclusion, the head of the judiciary assessed the developments which have taken place within the judiciary, and called on the Friday imams for further cooperation with the judicial power, and their support of its independence.

Velayati on Iraq, Kuwait

LD3005075190 Tehran IRNA in English 0630 GMT 30 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 30, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said here Tuesday [29 May] that Iraq's good will depends upon its committment to international agreements and Iran-Iraq accords. Addressing the sixth nationwide gathering of Friday prayer leaders the foreign minister added that the U.N. Resolution 598 forms the basis for resolving Iran-Iraq disputes.

As for the issue of Kashmir, he said that as a fundamental principle Iran supports Muslims throughout the world and Kashmir is part of the Islamic body which needs attention. However, he reiterated that Iran's stance on the issue does not mean interference in internal affairs of India. He said that the present era is that of the sovereignty of the nations and the governments must understand that nothing will be achieved through the means of force, arms and coercion.

Meanwhile Foreign Ministry Spokesman Morteza Sarmadi [name as received] who was also present in the session raised the arrest and recent trial of four Kuwaiti Muslims in Kuwait and said that the ministry has reacted to the issue and informed the Kuwaiti Government of Iran's protest.

Karrubi Speaks; Motion Issued

LD3005113190 Tehran IRNA in English 1005 GMT 30 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 30, IRNA—Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi Wednesday [30 May] stressed: "Hajj pilgrimage is a religious duty of Mulsims and the Islamic Republic of Iran is for fulfillment of this divine obligation." Speaking at the third and closing day of the sixth nationwide gathering of Friday prayer leaders, Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi noted that the Saudi regime through its obstructions was preventing Iranians to perform Hajj rituals. [sentence as received]

The three-day conference ended by issuing a 10-point resolution stressing that the principle of 'neither East nor West' of the Islamic Revolution of Iran is inalterable.

Referring to the brutual massacare of Hajj pilgrims by the Saudi police in July 31, 1987, the Majles speaker said that the Saudi regime and the U.S. were fearful of Muslims' demonstration of 'antipathy against pagans'.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi who is also head of the 'Martyr Foundation' stressed that further attention should be paid to cultural, religious, social and welfare programs of

the families of the martyrs. He urged the Friday prayer leaders to help the foundation in this regard.

The resolution while announcing willingness to establish "sound and constructive ties" with different states and nations expressed hatred towards the arrogant powers especially "the great Satan—the world devouring America".

The participants in the gathering strongly denounced obstructions made by the Saudi regime and "promoters of the American brand of Islam" in preventing Iranians to perform Hajj rituals. They also condemend countless plots hatched against Muslims and pledged full support for the oppressed and deprived masses especially those in occupied Palestine and Kashmir.

The resolution called for a vigorous campaign against social vices including addiction.

Lauding the government of President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the participants said full support for the government is considered a divine responsibility.

International Ahl-e Beyt Conference Ends 24 May

LD2505145190 Tehran IRNA in English 1100 GMT 25 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 25, IRNA—The first world conference on Ahl-e Bayt [household of the Prophet] concluded here Thursday [24 May] with a closing speech by Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Khomeyni, son of the late founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Hojjat ol-Eslam Khomeyni said that the lack of correct and proper understanding of the goals of the infallible household of the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) [peace be upon him] was the reason for the current problems prevalent in Islamic world.

Supporting the oppressed underprivileged masses and campaigning against the oppressors are among the teachings of Ahl-e Bayt, said the Hojjat ol-Eslam adding, "we are the true followers of the Ahl-e Bayt only when we implement their teachings." Further in his address to the participants of the four-day conference at Tehran's Ershad Mosque, he added that the Islamic Republic is based on the sublime goals and teachings of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) and his household.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Khomeyni urged the participating Ulema to support the objectives of the Islamic Revolution of Iran.

"It is a source of pride that a system (Islamic Republic) has emerged in the world of blasphemy to defend Islam, the Holy Koran, the Prophet (PBUH) and his infallible household," he said urging the world Islamic scholars and Ulema to defend the Islamic sanctities without fearing martyrdom, imprisonment or torture.

The two speakers before Hojjat ol-Eslam Khomeyni were chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Bakir Hakim and 'Allameh Seyyed Morteza 'Askari who both emphasized unity of Muslims stressing, "This is a goal that must be pursued seriously."

A resolution issued at the end of the conference stressed the need for further studies in thoughts, ideologies, and moral teachings of the prophet's household and their role in the contemporary social life as a mean for salvation of the human kind.

It added that hundreds of 'ulema, scholars, intellectuals, politicians and sociologists from more than 50 countries who attended the conference attempted to pave the way for the unity of Muslims and enable them to fight against blasphemy and Zionism.

The resolution further added that the coming to light of the true nature of communism coupled with gradual decline of imperialism, heighten the need for promotion of noble spiritual values, in search of which the world people will undoubtedly turn to Islam.

It also reiterated the need for greater studies in ideological, intellectual and moral aspects of Ahl-e Bayt and establishing a world center to bring closer different sects of Islam and to create an understanding among the Islamic 'ulema. The resolution also condemned Western decietful cultural attacks and insults on Islamic sanctities and endorsed the decree of the late Imam Khomeyni against the apostate Salman Rushdie, author of the blasphemous novel, 'The Satanic Verses'.

It also called on world countries to endeavour to gaurantee respect towards the divine religions through legal means.

It also paid tribute to the late Imam Khomeyni who led the magnificent Islamic revolution in Iran and called on all sincere forces to support the revolution by employing all their potentials.

The participants also condemned colonialist plots against the Muslim nations of Palestine, Afghanistan, Lebanon and Kashmir, and urged the oppressed masses to struggle to regain their dented rights.

Describing Palestine as the main issue of the Muslim world, and Zionism a serious threat against Islam, the conference expressed support for the Palestinian uprising and called on all Muslims to stand against the great danger—the influx of the Soviet Jews to the occupied lands.

The conference condemned the Saudi regime for banning the Iranian Hajj pilgrims from performing the hajj rituals, and urged the sincere Muslims to take the necessary measures in this regard in order to find a competent and elligible custodian for the holy shrines.

KEYHAN HAVAI Comments on Saddam Letter

PM2905144590 Tehran KEYHAN HAVAI in Persian 16 May 90 p 22

[Editorial: "Saddam's Letter and Iran and Iraq's International Relations"]

[Text] In an interview with VOA on 5 May, Iraqi Ambassador to the United Nations 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari officially announced that Saddam Husayn had recently written a letter to Hashemi-Rafsanjani. This letter was about peace negotiations and should be regarded as an act of goodwill. The Iraqi ambassador added: We are not prepared to talk about the war and either side's fault. We must put that kind of talk behind us.

On our country's part it was also announced that the letter from the Iraqi government was discussed in the National Security Council and the cabinet as well as the Majles Foreign Affairs Commission.

The letter gains importance under the current conditions of both countries' foreign relations. In general, it becomes clear under these conditions [sentence as published]. Some time ago Iraq's relations with the West grew worse with the execution of British journalist Farzad Bazoft. This was followed by the discovery of arms being smuggled to Iraq, including the trigger devices for nuclear weapons, originating in the United States which were discovered in London. The propaganda war with Europe, United States, and Israel on one side and Iraq on the other continued. In the meantime the White House announced that it would not impose any type of economic sanctions against Iraq and that bilateral diplomatic relations would continue as before.

Alongside the war of words between Iraq and the West, two American hostages were released in Beirut. It was said that Iran and Syria intervened in the release of the two. In addition to this, the movement in Iran which favors improved relations and "direct negotiations" with the United States and normalization of ties with Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and other Arab countries in the region that do not have diplomatic relations with Iran announced its views openly in the country's press.

Reacting to these demands, leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah Khamene'i rejected talks with Washington but was not against improving ties with the Arab states.

Although the text of Saddam's letter to the leaders of the Islamic Republic has not been revealed, keeping in mind the remarks made by officials of the two sides it seems that he wants to hold personal talks with top officials of the Islamic Republic. The venue for the talks, as suggested by Saddam Husayn, is Saudi Arabia.

Last year the Iraqi leader sent a similar letter to Iranian leaders. Under those conditions the letter was ignored by Iranian officials.

It has been said that, as an introduction to his letter, before detailing his requests, Saddam mentioned Western and U.S. hostility toward Muslim countries and the immigration of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine as issues that Arab and Muslim nations have in common.

It is also understood that, following this letter, PLO leader Yasir al-'Arafat has also written a letter to the Islamic Republic officials mentioning the immigration of Jews from the Soviet Union and East Europe into the occupied territories. He discussed the need for unity among Muslims to confront this trend. 'Arafat then mentioned the need for Muslims to sort out their own problems.

To analyze Saddam's letter, one can look at two possibilities. One is to presume that this action of the Iraqi government is a new peace move to match Iran's peace-seeking efforts.

That would mean that, in and of itself, the message contains no new initiative or decision. The mention of Saudi Arabia, which does not have diplomatic ties with Iran, at a time when bilateral relations are dark, could be proof of the impossibility of such negotiations. The actions of the Iraqi regime in the past eight years also speak of such an understanding. Yet, if Saddam only had propaganda in mind, why did he not make a huge fuss about the letter, at least to start with?

The second assumption is to think that Baghdad is serious in its latest proposals. This would mean that we must take the rift between the West and Baghdad seriously. This seems somewhat unacceptable in the real world.

If what has been said so far more or less makes up the contents of the letter—we have no reason to doubt this—the truth about Saddam's and, later, 'Arafat's intentions should not be forgotten. Only two years after the success of the revolution, when it had not fully found its strength, Saddam attacked Iran at a time when confrontations with the Americans (the hostage crisis) and the Israelis were at their peak. Continuing the same trend, it formed a coalition with the United States and its most dependent elements in the region—Jordan, Egypt, and perhaps Israel. It is not the intention of this article to go into detail about the cooperation between the Iraqi ba'th party and the West, the United States and Israel against the Muslims and Arabs. Besides, this has been discussed many, many times. Keeping all this in mind, to talk of the West and Israel's being joint enemies of both Iran and Iraq would be nothing but rubbish. In other words, the basic differences between Israel and the United States are not enough to cause cooperation between Iran and Iraq.

It seems that, among all these points of view, there is one that is more realistic than others. This calls for looking at Saddam's letter beyond a propaganda or political ploy, but not to the extent of regarding it as Saddam's only choice.

This point of view looks at the conflicts between the Iraqis and the West and the changes that have taken place in the last couple of years in both Iran and Iraq's relations with other nations. Following the acceptance of Resolution 598 and a cease-fire, Iran started to normalize and improve political and economic ties with other countries. Although this movement was sometimes slow and had its ups and downs, it nevertheless meant that this leverage point of international pressure, which was used as an offensive weapon by Iraq against Iran, had now become a defensive move and had lost some of its power.

Expansion of ties between Iran and some countries such as the Soviet Union also caused Iran to use international pressure against Iraq. Of course, this effort by the Islamic Republic enjoyed little success because the West and the United States not only refused to apply any international pressure against Iraq, they even supported Saddam. The region's countries, despite their differences with Iraq—albeit temporary and superficial—did not show much inclination toward Tehran in its effort for peace with Baghdad. The reason for this was the tension in the relations between the Islamic Republic and some important regional countries. In this connection the nations on the southern shores of the Persian Gulf say that their biggest obstacle in getting close to Tehran is the fact that there are no relations between Iran and Riyadh. It seems that these countries agree that they have to put pressure on the Saudis to lessen their conditions for allowing Iranian pilgrims to take part in the hajj.

Iran's efforts to improve ties with the West and regional countries, which also strengthen the leverage for pressuring Iraq, come at a time of darkened relations between Iran and the West. As was mentioned before, although these differences cannot be considered too basic, their importance should not be overlooked either.

In the last issue of KEYHAN HAVAI it was mentioned that the issues that exist between Iraq and the West appear to be real but that, at the same time, they are not fundamental and will eventually assist Iraq's stabilization in the Western camp.

With this view in mind, it seems that Iraq is not optimistic about the future of the talks under the supervision of the UN secretary general and is also worried about the West's continued supprt. This feeling of weakness has caused the Iraqi leaders to look for another framework for the negotiations, in particular to try to break the mold of Resolution 598. In their view, direct talks while the Iraqis have the military upper hand is to their advantage.

All this does not mean that the West has abandoned Iraq. Rather, it indicates that the West places certain conditions in exchange for its support and that Iraq should not take its support for granted. The result that we can assume from all this is that Tehran could use and provoke further the differences that exist between the West and Iraq—even though they may be slight—and so take away international (meaning Western) support from Iraq. This would result in a separation between the Western nations and Iraq.

If this is realized, even to a small extent, the pressure points at Iraq's disposal, either in the negotiations within the framework of Resolution 598 or in direct talks, will be lessened. That way the Islamic Republic will find more fertile ground to realize its goals.

We must keep in mind that the issues of Arvand Rud and the 1975 Algiers Accord still remain as the two nations' basic problems in negotiations. The Islamic Republic's insistence that the accord is still valid, while Iraq apparently insists on a reconsideration, will almost certainly mean failure for this new trend, unless Iraq steps back from its unreasonable stance. At the same time it indicates that the Iraqis lack the necessary goodwill to establish peace.

Raja'i-Khorasani on Saddam Letter to President

LD2905111690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0740 GMT 29 May 90

[Interview with Raja'i-Khorasani, chairman of the Majles Foreign Affairs Committee, by unidentified moderator; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [moderator] In the name of the Almighty. With greetings to you listeners, as announced by my colleague in the studio, I am about to interview Mr. Raja'i-Khorasani, the honorable chairman of the Majles Foreign Affairs Committee, whom I would first like to thank for agreeing to take part in this interview. Mr. Raja'i, would you please brief us on the latest developments with regards to the UN Resolution [598]. How do you evaluate these developments?

[Raja'i-Khorasani] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. I believe there have been no new developments in the wake of the letter sent by Saddam to Iran and to which Iran has responded. I do believe, however, that the Security Council has become more active, especially since some members of the Security Council, such as the Soviet Union, have expressed a positive interest in the implementation of the resolution. There is the possibility of a meeting between the foreign ministers of the two countries to be held at the UN or elsewhere in the near future. The general prospect for the issue is more or less as it was before, with the difference that with extreme caution, it is possible to believe that Iraq has probably slightly softened its stance. However, we should not be too optimistic, since when Iraq, too, senses that the international climate has slightly altered to her disadvantage, and also that the political pressures on the international arena has mobilized against Iraq in support of the implementation of the resolution, then it is only natural that Iraq should contemplate a political maneuver, an action which may counterbalance those pressures, slightly diverting international attention. I am still uncertain as to whether I should regard the exchange, or I should say the dispatch of the letter by

Iraq, to have been carried out by Iraq with sufficient goodwill. We should wait until the next round of negotiations, to see the degree of compromise shown by Iraq, and its preparedness in cooperating towards the implementation of the resolution. Iraq called for direct talks, and in principle direct talks were not contrary to our stance. However, we were, and still are interested in the implementation of the resolution, and if Mr. Saddam Husayn shows readiness to the resolution, and if we see such goodwill from him [polite form "Ishan" used] indicating his readiness to withdraw his forces, from our territories, then after the commencement of the withdrawal of the forces, the remaining work could be carried out with a greater degree of goodwill. However, as long as no practical initiatives are taken by him, I believe that we should proceed with much caution as well as withholding from giving any optimistic evaluations.

[Moderator] What information can you give our listeners with regards to the letter sent by the Iraqi Government to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran?

[Raja'i-Khorasani] I believe I had just briefly spoken about that. Iraq's principle stance has not varied much from what it was at the time when the resolution was first drawn up. We have always insisted on the precise implementation of the resolution, which is a document approved by the international community, and is hence binding. Iraq tended to change the subject by calling for direct talks so as to slightly evade the implementation of the resolution. My deduction is that it has maintained that stance even in the letter. Nevertheless, as I said before, we should act with caution, and if there appear signs of a softening in its stance and if it truly wants to cooperate in its proposed negotiations toward the implementation of the resolution, that could mean that the negotiations should be carried out as in the past, on an expert level, that is to say on a foreign ministerial or lower levels, and the executive generalities of the resolution such as the drawing-up of a timetable and details of the withdrawal of the forces and exchange of POWs, should all be approved by the protaganists and the UN Security Council. Mr. General Secretary, too, had proposed to the protagonists—on behalf of the UN—to sit down and settle the issue over the course of two months; this period is an ultimatum [zarb-al ajal] always proposed by Mr. General Secretary for the negotiation session between Iran and Iraq, which has the support of the Security Council. Now we have to see how much goodwill Mr. Saddam Husayn will display in the next session—when it takes place in the next one or two months—which is aimed at resolving the entire issue in the course of two months. If we see such goodwill there, then it would be possible to raise one's hopes that Iraq has shown a reasonable degree of readiness towards the implementation of the resolution; otherwise I believe we should assume that there have been no changes.

Anniversary of Khomeyni's Death To Be Marked

Ceremonies Scheduled

LD2705152190 Tehran IRNA in English 1255 GMT 27 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 27, IRNA—Commemoration ceremonies for the 1st anniversary of the passing away of Imam Khomeyni will start Thursday evening [31 May] with a speech by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at the late leader's shrine in Behesht-e Zahra cemetery. "In addition to millions of Iranian mourners, 4,000 Muslims from various countries including 300 prominent ulema, and cultural and political figures are to attend the ceremony," Hojat ol-Eslam Mohammad 'Ali Ansari told IRNA Sunday [27 May].

Hoj. Ansari is secretary of the headquarters for organizing the commemoration ceremonies. He said the six-day commemoration will feature official programmes including recitation of the holy Koran and speeches by high-ranking officials at the imam's shrine. The late imam's household, too, is to hold special ceremonies for women from June 1 at the Jamaran mosque, in the northern suburbs of Tehran where the leader's modest residence was, disclosed Ansari.

Various organizations, he said are working round the clock to make necessary arrangements to host domestic and foreign guests who are to attend the commemoration ceremony. According to Ansari special facilities have been provided for Iranian mediamen and 120 foreign reporters who are expected in Tehran for news coverage of the anniversary.

Imam Khomeyni who led the Islamic revolution to victory in Iran and founded the first ever Islamic republic in 1979, left for his heavenly abode on June 3, 1989 nearly two weeks after a surgical operation on his digestive system.

President Lauds Preparations

LD2805125290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 May 90

[Text] At the approach of the first anniversary of the heart-rending demise of the great leader of the Islamic revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, His Eminence Imam Khomeyni—may God be satisfied with his deeds, this morning—Hojjat ol-Eslam Ansari, head of the headquarters for the [death anniversary] ceremonies, and the person in change of the blessed shrine of Imam Khomeyni—may God be satisfied with his deeds—was received by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

According to the Central News Unit, he presented a comprehensive report about the ongoing activities of the various committees and those in charge of the plan for the construction of the blessed shrine, and informed the president about the preparations of the headquarters for

receiving people from throughout the country, foreign guests, and guests from Islamic countries.

The head of the headquarters for the anniversary ceremonies for his eminence the imam's demise also presented a report about the construction and preparation of the blessed shrine and forthcoming programs which will soon be implemented.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, for his part, praised those involved in the headquarters for the ceremonies, those in charge of the blessed shrine, and all the operational forces which have been able to achieve great and artistic things in the construction of the sacred shrine in a very short period of time. He stressed the importance of the construction of a shrine in a manner in keeping with and of dimensions suitable to the dignity and greatness of the imam and the revolution.

Referring to the anniversary of the demise of Imam Khomeyni—may God be satisfied with his deeds—the president also said: The anniversary is one of the exceptional opportunities of our history, and keeping alive the name of Imam Khomeyni, may God be satisfied with his deeds, means in fact keeping alive the fundamental principles of the revolution and Islamic teachings. We must therefore, keep aloft the flag and the tent-pole of the revolution and keep his name alive.

Week of Mourning Declared

LD2905081690 Tehran IRNA in English 0733 GMT 29 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 29, IRNa—One-week public mourning is declared by the government from June 1st to mark the first anniversary of the demise of the late leader of the Islamic revolution and founder of the Islamic republic, Imam Khomeyni, it was announced here Tuesday.

June 4th and 5th are declared public holidays, said the statement by the Council of Ministers adding that normal work will continue on other days of the week.

Special week-long ceremonies will be held in the holy shrine of the late imam, southern Tehran and some 200 foreign reporters and television film crews are expected to cover the event. Outstanding Islamic personalities and ulema who have been invited for the ceremony are arriving in Tehran.

Similar ceremonies will be held throughout the country.

June 4th is the anniversary of the demise of the late imam and June 5th is the anniversary of the 1963 Islamic uprising in Iran.

Malaysian Foreign Minister Departs Tehran

LD2605172290 Tehran IRNA in English 1035 GMT 26 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 26, IRNA—Volume of trade between Iran and Malaysia will reach dlrs. 200 million per year under a letter of understanding signed between the two countries, said Malaysian Foreign Minister before his departure here Saturday [26 May]. Datuk Abu Hassan Omar who arrived here on Wednesday [23 May] to take part in the second Iran-Malaysia joint economic commission, described his talks in Tehran as "successful". He said that negotiations were held in "an amicable atmosphere", with both sides underlining expansion of economic, political and cultural ties.

In a meeting with his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the Malaysian minister expressed support of his government for the U.N. Resolution 598 and discussed further efforts for the implementation of the resolution by the Security Council. Malaysia is a permanent member of the Security Council.

According to the letter of understanding signed last Thursday [24 May], the two sides underscored expansion of bilateral trade including Malaysia's export of rubber, tin and electric appliances to Iran and its import of 10,000 to 20,000 barrels per day of Iranian crude.

On Friday [25 May], the Malaysian official and his accompanying delegation flew to the northeastern city of Mashhad to pay a pilgrimage to the holy shrine of Imam Reza (as), the 8th imam of the household of the prophet (pbuh) [peace be upon him].

The Malaysian delegation left here for Kuala Lumpur Saturday and were seen off at Tehran's Mehrabad International Airport by Foreign Minister Velayati.

Maldives

Minister Reportedly Flees Amid Coup Rumors

BK3005071490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0710 GMT 30 May 90

[Text] Colombo, May 30 (AFP)—A powerful minister in the Maldives is reported to have fled the country Tuesday [29 May] night amid reports of another coup attempt against President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom. Informed sources said Junior Defence Minister Ilyas Ibrahim had left for an unknown destination following weeks of stepped-up criticism against him by a pro-democracy movement.

A journalist who wished to be anonymous said by telephone from Male that Mr. Ibrahim may have left because of pressure building up against him on an alleged corruption scandal in the state trading organisation he headed.

The Maldivian high commissioner or ambassador in Colombo, Ahmed Abdulla said he was unaware of Mr. Ibrahim's flight and quashed rumours of a coup attempt.

Nepal & Bhutan

Finance Ministry: Nation on Brink of Bankruptcy

BK2605151490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1506 GMT 26 May 90

[Text] Kathmandu, May 26 (AFP)—Nepal's former government mismanaged the economy, spent uncontrollably and irresponsibly and pushed the country to the brink of bankruptcy, said a Ministry of Finance white paper released Saturday [26 May]. The report, signed by Finance Minister Devendra Raj Pandey, said gross mismanagement by the 30-year partyless panchayat system had greatly increased Nepal's dependence on foreign aid. The government was dissolved under public pressure in April.

Dr. Pandey appealed earnestly to donor countries to help mend the torn economy and save it from bankruptcy. "In the past fifteen years alone Nepal has received both foreign loans and assistance to the tune of 13.9 billion rupees (48.8 million U.S. dollars) but the impact of this financial assistance remains negligible," the white paper said.

In the past 17 years, dependence on foreign aid and loans has increased from 40 per cent to 73.5 per cent, the report said.

The report alleged that foreign loans were given to people who put strong pressure on commercial banks and state-run financial institutions but were not in a position to return the investments. Government leaders put pressure on the banks not to collect on loans in order to gain influence during periodic panchayat elections, it said. Once the loans were given out, they were never to be paid back, the report said.

Most loans were given to more than 50 state-run corporations, hoteliers, industrialists and various professional groups, the Finance Ministry said.

It also noted a poor increase in food production despite heavy investment. "Though a substantial investment had been made in the agriculture sector, agriculture growth remained 2.4 percent against the population growth of 2.6 percent annually," the report said.

Nepal Halts Last Delivery of Chinese Arms

BK2505125890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1241 GMT 25 May 90

[By Kedar Man Singh]

[Text] Kathmandu, May 25 (AFP)—Nepal's coalition government has blocked the last consignment of Chinese arms ordered by its predecessor ahead of Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai's visit to India, a senior official said here Friday [25 May]. "We have advised the Chinese Government to delay the delivery of the last consignment of arms in view of the possible reaction of our southern neighbour, with whom we have to finalize a trade and transit treaty," the official told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

The official, who asked not to be named, said the consignment was to have been delivered this month but was to be held up for the time being. He did not indicate whether the shipment would be moved at a later date.

The official did not disclose the quantity of the Chinese arms, ordered by the partyless Panchayat government in 1988, which included armoured cars and anti-aircraft guns. Unofficial sources said there were about 300 truck loads, or 10 per cent of the total order.

The official said that during the last days of pro-democracy protests here in April an Indian delegation handed over to Nepal an 80-page draft treaty on trade and transit to cover Nepal's trade, virtually all of which goes through India. "In this draft teaty, India wanted to re-establish a military mission (here) and to post Indian armed personnel along the Nepal-Tibet frontier," the official said.

The abrupt resignation of then Foreign Minister Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya on April 1 stalled the talks which later failed, the official said, adding that the move prompted China to deploy between 60,000 and 75,000 troops along the border, especially in the India-Nepal-China section. "Since China has deployed the troops across our border there is no question of making any reaction," the official said, adding that the Chinese deployment was stepped up after Beijing lifted martial law in Tibet on May 1.

China and India went to war in 1962 over their border and the two countries are still trying to settle their differences over the frontier.

Observers here said that the question of China's arms supplies and its troop deployments would most likely figure very high up during Mr. Bhattarai's June 8-10 visit to India.

For his part, the prime minister said he was going to New Delhi without any preconditions for free-ranging talks aimed at "creating better understanding between the two governments." Mr. Bhattarai said Nepal would be seeking the cancellation of a 1965 agreement with New Delhi which bars Nepal from transporting its arms purchases via India.

Observers here said Mr. Bhattarai's main task will be to convince India to return to the situation before March 1989 when it closed 19 of the 21 border crossing points with Nepal as existing agreements on trade and transit expired.

Nepal's economy has been badly hit with shortages of petrol and cooking fuel felt widely and the government forced to fell even more trees in the country's already depleted forests to ensure essential fuel supplies.

Mr. Bhattarai is expected to ask India to open a few more transit points in the southwest border region. Finance Ministry officials say the blockade has cost the country at least 88 million dollars in lost revenues and output.

Pakistan

Bhutto's Kashmir 'Diplomatic Offensive' Commended

BK2505111790 Lahore THE NATION in English 25 May 90 p 4

[Editorial: "PM's Personal Diplomacy"]

[Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's whirlwind tour of Muslim countries has been in terms of physical effort alone an extraordinary feat. In nine days of hectic travelling she visited eight Muslim capitals, almost one a day, and went through the daily drill of airport ceremonies, state banquets and the rest of the protocol rituals, besides holding more than one round of formal talks with the national leaders of these countries. New Delhi which has been obviously upset by the Prime Ministers' initiative would like us to believe that her visit was a failure and no Muslim country, except Iran, has pledged support to Pakistan on the Kashmir issue. Independent reports, on the contrary, suggest that Ms Bhutto was well received, given a patient hearing and assured of principled support by her hosts. Though it may be a little too early to tell how far these Muslim countries would go in expressing solidarity with the cause of Kashmir's freedom struggle, there is no doubt that the message has been put across in the right prospective. The 'diplomatic offensive' launched by the Prime Minister, though belated, has been a move in the right direction. In these nine days of face-to-face discussion with Muslim leaders, she has perhaps earned more goodwill for Pakistan and a better appreciation of its case on Kashmir than what was achieved through the normal diplomatic channels.

Nevertheless the exercise should be deemed as only the beginning of an on-going process Pakistan needs to sustain in order to mobilise world opinion and win meaningful support. To give the devil its due, the Indian propaganda machine and diplomatic manoeuvring has been much more efficacious, besides the leverage New Delhi has in world affairs as a 'big power' of the region. And the Kashmir issue was consigned to limbo for so long that it requires an all-out campaign to explode the fiction of Kashmir being an internal affairs of India and to arouse world conscience with regard to the victims of India's reign of terror in the valley. The OIC [Organization of Islamic Conference] Secretary-General's latest statement calling upon New Delhi 'to put an end to the wave of terror and violence' in Kashmir Ummah [community]. The Saudi monarch had earlier expressed in unequivocal terms, fraternal support to Pakistan in any hour of trial. And in the wake of Prime Minister's visit one hopes that many more Muslim countries will rise to the occasion and express open and unambiguous solidarity with their brethren fighting against Indian oppression.

Paper Asks Bhutto To Answer Corruption Charges

BK2705043490 Lahore THE NATION in English 26 May 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Corruption Syndrome"]

[Text] Upon her return from a successful diplomatic mission Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto may not have hoped for the kind of reception she was given by the Opposition leaders. But, then she should have known that politics is an extremely competitive business and rivals in the field are not prone to giving walk overs to their opponents. Winning friends abroad was a necessary exercise and the alarming external threat had called for it, but the domestic political scene also warrants the kind of personal effort the Prime Minister has put into making her visit to Muslim countries a success. It is not enough to dismiss the opposition charges of "corruption and nepotism" as an attempt to "undermine the roots of democratic process" and to sidetrack the issue by asking Malik Mohammad Qasim to probe into the allegations. The COP [Combined Opposition Parties] sponsored "All-Pakistan Elected Opposition Convention" in Rawalpindi may not have made dramatic disclosures about corrupt practices, misuse of discretion and financial irregularities, but there is no denying the fact that "corruption in high places" has been turned into a major national issue.

The Opposition charge that the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] government was the "worst ever government in Pakistan compulsively corrupt from top to bottom" was perhaps a blanket condemnation motivated by mutual hostility. And the "prosecuters" had conveniently overlooked their own bunglings and wrongdoings that had taken place with audacity prior to Bhutto government's taking over. Nevertheless, regardless of the Opposition's mala fides to discredit Bhutto government at any cost, or as the Prime Minister has said herself, "its immature and irresponsible attitude", the stigma of corruption seems to have stuck to the PPP government. The Prime Minister would like to attribute it to the COP's "disinformation campaign", but it is time for her to realize that in popular perception her government does not have a clean image and she needs to take drastic measures to redeem it. The COP moot has demanded Bhutto government's resignation and has also asked for the setting up of a high-powered judicial tribunal to probe into corruption charges. The Prime Minister has been hitherto a stout defender of her Ministers' integrity, including her controversial State Minister of Finance against whom the Punjab High Court has made uncharitable remarks, but she is also on record as having said that she would welcome anyone going to the courts to set the record straight. A judicial review of the specific charges of corruption may perhaps be the best recourse for the government as well as the opposition.

Paper Urges Reconsideration of Strategy in Sindh

BK2805152190 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 28 May 90 p 6

[Editorial: "Crack-down or Cock-Up?"]

[Text] The long-demanded crack-down on terrorism in Sindh has begun traumatically. An operation of this kind couldn't, admittedly, have gone off smoothly under the best of circumstances. Terrorists would not have been what they are had they allowed themselves to be reached by the arm of the law except across a pool of blood—a lot of it innocent blood. Saturday's [26 May] Hyderabad toll, even if it was in excess of the official figure (10 dead, 18 wounded, on both sides), tragic as it was, seemed perhaps an initial price that had to be paid if the daily-devouring monster was to be begun to be forced back into the bottle. But while it was still to become clear what advance had been made in return for that price, there came this yesterday's outbreak of day-long violence in Hyderabad and Karachi. The people who had poured out on the streets in Hyderabad in defiance of the curfew were apparently in no riotous mood; they wished to press for reopening of shops since they had run out of food stocks during the prolonged spells of curfew. It is possible that the teargassing by the police was purely out of fear that the procession would be a strong provocation, present an easy target, for terrorists in the wings. It is also plausible that most of the shots when they came were indeed from guns of just these elements. If so that will be some mitigation for the forces of law and order. But only some.

It is hard not to conclude from the events that the operation had not sufficiently been planned. If it were, there would have been no room for surprises. All the possibilities would have been foreseen and provided for. According to some reports the rangers and the army people claimed that they had had no advance warning of the operation. If true, it is puzzling. Surely, prudence demanded that these other branches were at least alerted ahead of the move so that they too could be ready for any contingencies? In fact it would seem that they should have been consulted in the very planning of the operation in view of their own experience in the field. It was after all not a minor undertaking. It involved human lives. It was replete with all manner of other ramifications. The police had found itself too cramped for resources to take even a peripheral measure of the problem through all of past years. How it suddenly found itself capable of going out all on its own and taking it by the scruff of its neck as it were, defies imagination. If it is true that yesterday's citizens' procession in Hyderabad had obtained permission from the rangers, that again was an apparent consequence of this lack of communication between the different arms of security—though perhaps, under the circumstances, the permission shouldn't have been so readily granted anyhow.

What now? The answer is not that the administration should beat a retreat; only that it should reconsider its whole strategy. The first current priority has to be damage control. These events of the two days have revived the current of violence within Hyderabad, and have already, inevitably, touched off a fresh cycle of mayhem in Karachi. The effort should be not to add new fuel to public fire. The imposition of curfew should be selective and not unduly oppressive. Public demonstrations and protest, except when and only to the extent that they break into hurtful violence, should raise no hackles. Further initiative against terrorists should be coordinated with the other agencies and the movement should be gradual and calculated. It is unwise to try to defeat terrorism that has pockets of support among citizenry on the sheer strength of superior numbers and firepower. The cost, as the past two days have shown, will be heavy. It is necessary instead to try as far as possible to isolate the terrorists before closing in on them. A large number of them are obviously known to the authorities; there should be tidier ways of picking them up than wanting to do it in one fell impatient swoop. Inflammable material tackled heavy-handedly tends to explode in one's own face. That is what seems to have just happened.

Nusrat Bhutto Alleges Indian Involvement in Sindh

BK2905163090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 29 May 90

[Text] The senior federal minister, Begum Nusrat Bhutto, talking to newsmen in Rawalpindi today expressed her belief that Indian agents are involved in recent incidents in Karachi and Hyderabad in order to divert Pakistan's attention from Kashmir and to put pressure on it to change its stand of supporting Kashmiris. She added that vested interests are behind the current law and order situation, and the government is faced with an extraordinary situation.

Sri Lanka

Opposition Paper: Government-Rebel Talks Collapse

BK2505155690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1514 GMT 25 May 90

[Text] Colombo, May 25 (AFP)—Year-long peace talks between the Sri Lankan Government and the dominant Tamil rebel group have collapsed, an opposition newspaper said Friday [25 May] quoting a top rebel leader.

"The talks we have been having with the government for the past one year have completely collapsed and the confidence we had placed in the government has been completely broken," Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) leader Yogaratnam Yogi was quoted by the Sinhala daily DINARASA as saying. DINARASA is the official organ of the main opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP), which has been critical of the government-LTTE talks accusing Colombo of virtually handing over Tamil-populated North-Eastern province to the rebels.

There was no independent confirmation of Mr. Yogi's statement, which DINARASA said was made at a public meeting in the northern port town of Kankesanthurai Tuesday. The meeting was held hours after an LTTE delegation had held talks with Justice Minister A.C.S. Hameed in Jaffna, a few kilometers from Kankesanthurai.

"I want the Tamil masses to prepare themselves for any situation," said Mr. Yogi, who is the secretary of the LTTE's newly formed political party, People's Front of Liberation Tigers (PFLT).

The government has been holding peace talks with the LTTE since April 1989 to persuade the rebels to give up arms and join the democratic mainstream. The Tigers had refused to give up arms on the grounds that weapons were necessary for self-defense, and it demanded that the government dissolve the North-Eastern provincial council and hold fresh elections.

In a related development, the leader of a rival Tamil group Friday welcomed a Sri Lankan Government statement that the LTTE must lay down arms before elections could be held to the North-Eastern provincial council. G. Karunakaram, secretary-general of the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation (TELO) which is bitterly opposed to the LTTE, said it was "encouraging that the government had made up its mind on the issue of gun culture that dominates the politics of the North-East." Industries minister and junior defence minister Ranjan Wijeratne told journalists Thursday it was essential that the LTTE lay down arms before provincial elections were called.

"We have time and again emphatically stated our clear and consistent view that for the free will of our people to emerge and prevail the guns should cease dictating terms," Mr. Karunakaram, an MP [member of parliament], said in a statement.

"Maurading mobs masquerading as militants and wielding weapons in the name of safety and security of our people cannot be permitted in a democratic country to legitimate their reign of terror," he said.

The TELO, like most other Tamil groups, is bitterly opposed to the LTTE, which reportedly killed nearly 200 TELO cadres in internecine clashes in the Jaffna peninsula in May 1986.

Editorial Urges Solution of Northeast Problem

BK2605104590 Colombo SUN in English
15 May 90 p 7

[Editorial: "Speedy Solution Vital for N-E (Northeast) Crisis"]

[Text] For the last two months there has been a hiatus in the administration of the north east province. Along with the Indian Army pullout and the fleeing of the NE [Northeast] provincial councillors to India, day to day control of the province seems to have passed to the Tigers [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam—LTTE] whose only claim to legitimacy is based on the power earned through the barrel of a gun.

It is apparent that this state of affairs cannot go on. The Central Government cannot watch helpless while the LTTE enjoying de factor control strengthens their position day by day.

The promise by the LTTE in January to lay down their arms the moment the Indian jawans [soldiers] left has not been kept. Their excuse has been that they need the arms for their protection.

This has placed the Government in a quandary since it invites the charge of allowing one group to enjoy privileges denied to all others. For isn't the security of all, including a group of Sri Lankan citizens calling themselves the LTTE, the responsibility of the Lankan Government?

A section of this country cannot bear arms merely because they perceive a threat to their existence. The normal course would be to seek government protection.

But this the LTTE has not done and will not do for that would mean submission to the jurisdiction of the Central Government. The flaunting of weapons thus is also symbolic of their assertion of independence.

The LTTE has also promised the government not to collect what is euphemistically termed 'taxes'. But according to many reports published it is evident there has been no lack of ardour in the collection drive.

This week the Government is set to resume its dialogue with the LTTE, it was reported yesterday [14 May]. This will be after a lapse of nearly five weeks, during which there were many instances where the cosy relationship tended to snap. Last week the abduction of Lankan soldiers by the Tigers gave much cause for concern. Even though the soldiers were later released, the whole episode demonstrated that the situation in the north and east cannot be left to drag on.

The Government must ensure that a speedy solution to the North East crisis is achieved soon. The longer Lanka waits the more dangerous and tragic the outcome would be.